

Review of the defined area of St Bees Heritage Coast and the case to extend it northwards

Prepared by LUC on behalf of the National Trust
December 2016

Planning & EIA
Design
Landscape Planning
Landscape Management
Ecology
Mapping & Visualisation

LUC EDINBURGH
28 Stafford Street
Edinburgh
EH3 7BD
T: +44 (0)131 202 1616
edinburgh@landuse.co.uk

Offices also in:
London
Bristol
Glasgow



FS 568456 EMS 568057

Land Use Consultants Ltd
Registered in England
Registered number: 2519296
Registered office:
48 Chilton Street
London NW11 1JD
LUC uses 100% recycled paper

Cover image © National Trust Images / Joe Cornish

Project Title: St Bees Heritage Coast Extension Review

Client: National Trust

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	10.11.16	Final draft	LW/KA	KA	KA
2	16.11.16	Final	LW/KA	KA	KA
3	14.12.16	Final inc. comments	LW/KA	KA	KA

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	Background	1
	Definition and Purpose of a Heritage Coast	2
	This Report	2
2	Method	3
	Introduction	3
	Consultation	3
	Evidence Gathering	3
	Characterisation and Field Survey	3
	Evaluation	4
	Preferred Boundary	6
3	Landscape character context	7
	Existing Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments	7
	Landscape Change and Cultural Heritage	12
	The Natural Landscape	14
4	Landscape characterisation	15
5	Landscape Evaluation Summaries	20
	1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry	20
	2. Kells Cliffs	24
	3. Saltom Pit	26
	4. Haig Cliffs	29
	5. Whitehaven Harbour	31
	6. Sandwith Farmland	34
	7. Rhodia Site	37
	8. Kells Farmland	39
	9. Solway Road Fields	42
	10. Haig Cliff Top Fields and Haig Pit	44
6	Recommendations	48
	Evaluation Summary and Boundary Recommendations	48
	Heritage Coast Name	54
	Proposed Planning Policy	54
	Socio Economic Benefits of an Extended Heritage Coast	55
Appendix 1		58
	Local Planning Policy	58
Appendix 2		65
	Evaluation criteria	65
	1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry	66
	2. Kells Cliffs	71
	3. Saltom Pit	75
	4. Haig Cliffs	79
	5. Whitehaven Harbour	83
	6. Sandwith Farmland	87

7. Rhodia Site	91
8. Kells Farmland	95
9. Solway Road Fields	99
10. Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig Pit	103

Appendix 3	107
References	107

Figures

Figure 1 – Study Area
Figure 2 - National Landscape Character Areas
Figure 3 – Regional Character Types
Figure 4 – Local Character Types and Areas
Figure 5 – Historic Landscape Characterisation
Figure 6 – Cultural Heritage Designations
Figure 7 – Natural Heritage Designations
Figure 8 - Sub Areas for Assessment
Figure 9 – Kells Farmland Extents
Figure 10 – Haig Cliff Top Fields and Haig Pit Extents
Figure 11 – Suggested Boundary for Heritage Coast Extension
Figure 12 – Existing Heritage Coasts in England

1 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 St. Bees is the only Heritage Coast between Wales and Scotland, and the only area of high sea cliffs in the north-west. The dramatic red sandstone cliffs at the exposed western headland are a defining feature and the coastline is a highly valued habitat for nesting seabirds. This is recognised through designation of the coastal cliffs as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). St Bees Head is enjoyed by many in St Bees and Whitehaven as a local recreational resource and is nationally important for recreation, as it will form part of the England Coast Path. It is also the location for the starting/ending point of coast to coast trails. The Coast to Coast (C2C) Cycle Route has start/end points in Whitehaven and Workington, and the coast to coast walk at St. Bees.
- 1.2 The sandstone cliffs at St Bees Head continue northwards from the edge of the Heritage Coast, towards Whitehaven Harbour. The cliffs are backed by a narrow strip of coastal heath, grassland and farmland between the coastline and residential edge of Whitehaven. At Barrowmouth the cliffs run inland, with an area of undulating coastal heath on their seaward side. The coastline has been worked for centuries, and evidence of quarrying, mining activity and more recent chemical works can be seen in the landscape forming a unique cultural layer.
- 1.3 Only a small area of the cliffs and headland is currently defined as Heritage Coast, which makes it especially vulnerable to change. The National Trust has instigated a review of the defined area of St Bees Heritage Coast and a study to make the case for extending it northwards. The focus of this study is to provide an analysis of the area northwards and provide a reasoned case and evidence base to support extension of the defined area with associated policy protection. The study area is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Study Area



Definition and Purpose of a Heritage Coast

- 1.4 Natural England produced a briefing note entitled *Heritage Coasts: definition, purpose and Natural England's role* in January 2015. It advises that: "A Heritage Coast is defined by agreement between the relevant maritime local authorities and Natural England".
- 1.5 The purposes of Heritage Coasts are to:
- "conserve, protect and enhance:
 - the natural beauty of the coastline;
 - their terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna;
 - their heritage features;
 - encourage and help the public to enjoy, understand and appreciate these areas;
 - maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting heritage coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures; and
 - take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts."¹
- 1.6 As set out in the *Draft Guidance provided to National Trust on Heritage Coast Definition and Criteria* (Natural England, undated), a Heritage Coast should meet the following criteria:
- "comprise a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality;
 - exceed one mile in length;
 - be substantially undeveloped; and
 - Contain features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made."

This Report

- 1.7 The remainder of this report sets out the approach to defining the extension to St Bees Heritage Coast following the method set out in chapter 2.
- 1.8 The initial results were discussed at a steering group meeting on 3rd November 2016 and this report presents the final recommendations. The steering group is made up of the National Trust, Natural England, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council. The Friends of the Lake District, Historic England, RSPB, the Land Trust and St Bees Parish Council have also been consulted as part of the process.

¹ Natural England (Jan 2015) *Heritage Coasts: definition, purpose and Natural England's role*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heritage-coasts-protecting-undeveloped-coast/heritage-coasts-definition-purpose-and-natural-englands-role>

2 Method

Introduction

- 2.1 The method was developed in response to the requirements of the *Draft Brief for: the review of the defined area of St. Bees Heritage Coast and the case to extend it northwards* (National Trust, June 2016). The work was undertaken in accordance with current best practice guidance, including the *Draft Guidance provided to National Trust on Heritage Coast Definition and Criteria* (Natural England, undated) and drawing on Natural England's *Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of outstanding Natural Beauty in England* (March 2011) . A full list of references is provided in **Appendix 3**.

Consultation

- 2.2 The study has involved on going consultation with representatives of the National Trust (client), Cumbria County Council, Copeland Borough Council and Natural England. This involved an inception meeting to agree the method plus joint site visit (4th October 2016), followed by a workshop (3rd November 2016) to review the emerging conclusions, draft boundary and agree the preferred boundary.

Evidence Gathering

- 2.3 The following key steps were undertaken:
- Gather baseline evidence information about the landscape of the south Whitehaven coast including:
 - review of the landscape character context;
 - review of planning context (provided as **Appendix 1**);
 - environmental character including designations and surveys of historic character and biodiversity.
- 2.4 Spatial information was collated and analysed as a GIS project and used to assist in the characterisation and evaluation.

Characterisation and Field Survey

- 2.5 This stage involved:
- Analysis of baseline information to identify areas of consistent landscape character;
 - Developing a characterisation of 'sub areas' - draft landscape character areas;
 - Identifying draft key characteristics that define the character of these areas;
 - Undertaking field work to verify the characterisation on the ground and collate information on sensory / experiential factors;
 - Consulting with the steering group to gather local knowledge and verify the draft characterisation; and
 - Finalising mapping and provide brief descriptions of landscape character areas.
- 2.6 Field surveys of the study area were undertaken in October 2016.

- 2.7 The landscape character context of the study area is described in **Section 3** of this report. The outcome of the baseline review was a landscape character framework which could be taken forward to the evaluation stage, as set out in **Section 4**.

Evaluation

- 2.8 Using desk and field based study, each landscape character area was evaluated against the criteria set out in **Table 1** below, to identify whether it met the factor in full or in part. The criteria were based on the *Evaluation Framework for Natural Beauty Criterion* as set out in Appendix 1 of the *Draft Guidance provided to National Trust on Heritage Coast Definition and Criteria* (Natural England, undated). The wording for some criteria was adapted to emphasise coastal characteristics relevant to Heritage Coast definition.

Table 1 Evaluation Framework for Natural Beauty Criterion adapted for the St Bees Heritage Coast Project

Factor	Subfactor	Indicator
Scenic quality	Distinctive sense of place	<i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>
	Striking coastal landform	<i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>
	Visual interest in patterns of land cover	<i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>
	Appeal to the senses	<i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>
Landscape quality	Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	<i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>
	The condition of landscape elements and features	<i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>
	Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	<i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visually intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>
Relative wildness	A sense of remoteness	<i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>
	A relative lack of human influence	<i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>
		<i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>
	A sense of openness and exposure	<i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>
	A sense of enclosure and isolation	<i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>
Relative tranquillity	A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	<i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>
	Contributors to tranquillity	<i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>
	Detractors from tranquillity	<i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>

Factor	Subfactor	Indicator
Natural heritage features	Geological and geomorphological features	<i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>
		<i>Presence of striking or memorable geomorphological features</i>
	Wildlife and habitats	<i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive (coastal) sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>
		<i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>
Cultural heritage	Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	<i>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>
		<i>Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape</i>
	Historic influence on the landscape	<i>Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape</i>
		<i>Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time</i>
	Characteristic land management practices	<i>Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty</i>
	Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events	<i>Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape</i>
		<i>Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music</i>
		<i>Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs</i>

- 2.9 The Natural England guidance on Heritage Coast definition notes that the evaluation should be guided by the definition of natural beauty and assess evidence using the framework outlined above which sets out factors, sub factors and indicators. Natural England note that not all factors will be expected to be present and most weight in reaching a conclusion as to whether an area has sufficient natural beauty to warrant the national recognition that Heritage Coast definition provides, should be given to the factor related to scenic quality. Particular attention should be given to the impact of any detractors from natural beauty present in the area being evaluated.
- 2.10 Any areas to be included in the St Bees Heritage Coast extension must therefore meet the main criterion of high scenic quality.
- 2.11 A table setting out the detailed evaluation for each landscape character area is included in **Appendix 2**. Summaries of the landscape evaluation are provided in **Section 5**.
- 2.12 Note that landscape character area 11: Saltom Bay the adjacent seascape is not included in the evaluation. The open sea will automatically be part of the Heritage Coast definition if the coast itself meets the criteria (which include open sea views). There is no outer seaward boundary for a Heritage Coast

Preferred Boundary

- 2.13 Using the results of the evaluation a preferred boundary was mapped, identifying areas which met the criteria to become a Heritage Coast. These frequently involved the entire character area but where a variation was noted (i.e. only part of the area met the criteria) an appropriate boundary was recommended. Boundaries aimed to follow logical features that can be perceived on the ground, such as a field boundary. The map also highlights an area which did not meet the criteria but was considered to form a Gateway Area with two key Gateway points. This Gateway area is integral to cohesive management of the Heritage Coast. The management of the whole Gateway area, and how it is treated in the local plan, has the potential to add to the quality, character and setting of the Heritage Coast.
- 2.14 It is anticipated that the preferred boundary will form the basis for discussions between Natural England and the Local Authorities (Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council).
- 2.15 The boundary took cognisance of the additional criteria set out in the *Draft Guidance*, namely:
- *“land with potential to support recreation and access may be included, including stretches of Coastal Access and associated areas of spreading room (e.g. cliff top lands that could provide access);*
 - *special features adjacent to scenic areas may justify the boundary being ‘stretched’ to ensure their inclusion;*
 - *the existence of any areas exhibiting a marked need for management might justify inclusion, perhaps to allow controlled access;*
 - *the location of isolated farms or groups of buildings or small settlements might justify inclusion in order to secure comprehensive planning and management.*
 - *any related designated areas such as AONB or SSSI where these boundaries are near the coastline may be included;*
 - *any settlements or physical features that detract from the visual quality of the coastline should be located outside the boundary;*
 - *visual relationships between inland areas and the coast can be used to help define extent;*
 - *major roads should preferably be excluded.”²*
- 2.16 **Section 6** sets out recommendations for the preferred boundary, which is shown on Figure 11.

² *Draft Guidance provided to National Trust on Heritage Coast Definition and Criteria* (Natural England, undated)

3 Landscape character context

- 3.1 This section responds to Task 2 (Desk Study) of the National Trust brief and describes the landscape character context of the south Whitehaven coast.

Existing Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments

- 3.2 The landscape of the south Whitehaven coast has been assessed at national, regional and local scales. Existing assessments are briefly described here.

National Character Areas

- 3.3 The study area falls within National Character Area 7: West Cumbria Coastal Plain as described in the **National Character Area profile: 07 West Cumbria Coastal Plain** (Natural England, 2014). This area “forms a plain of varying width between the Cumbrian High Fells NCA in the east and the Irish Sea to the west”. The coastline is diverse, and the central section, including the St Bees area, is “dominated by the red sandstone cliffs of St Bees Head with shingle beaches, intertidal sands and mudflats, salt marsh and sand dunes”. North of St Bees the coast “consists of a mix of intertidal flats, soft cliffs of natural or industrial origin and narrow beaches”. Inland the arable landscape around St Bees provides a contrast to the surrounding pastoral landscape. Recreational interests are noted to include the Heritage Coast and the Coast to Coast walk heading east from St Bees Head. Notable views are west across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man, and northwest to the Dumfries and Galloway coastline, with views inland set against the mountains of the Lake District. National Character Areas are shown on Figure 2.

Figure 2 - National Character Areas



Regional Character Areas

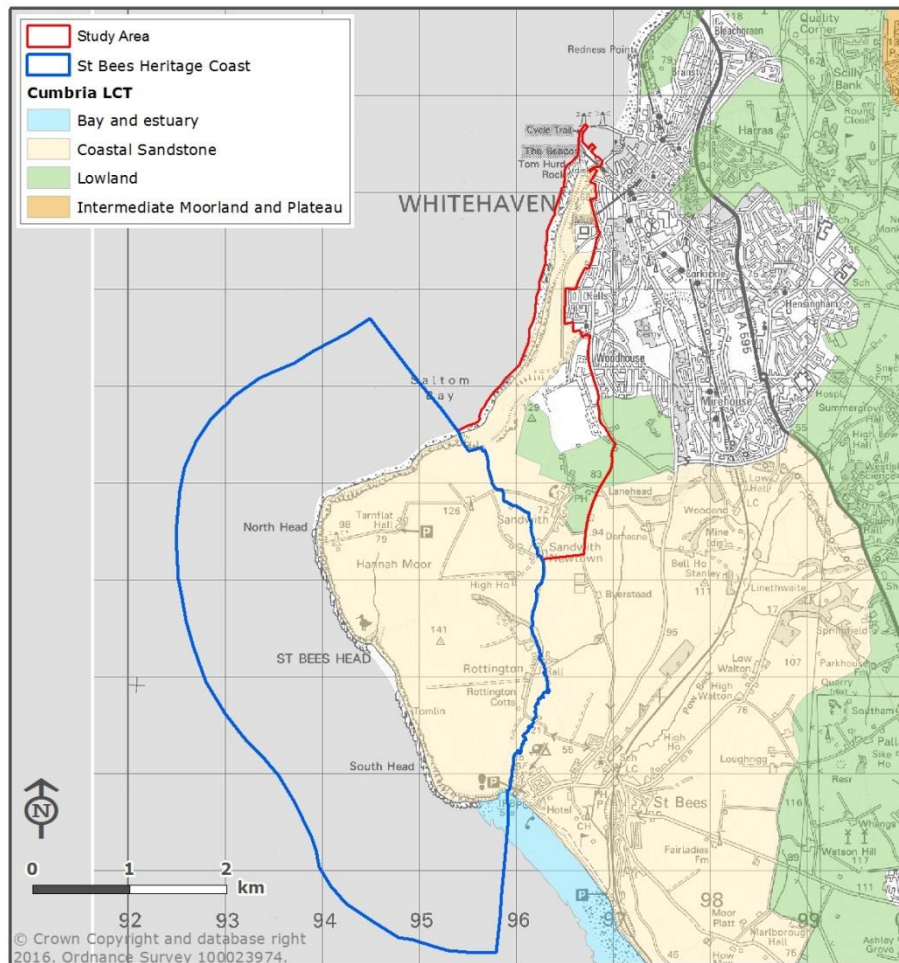
North West Landscape Character Framework

- 3.4 The **North West Landscape Character Framework** Final Report Part 2: Regional Landscape Character Types and Areas (Natural England, 2009) identifies regional landscape character types and areas. The study area falls within the *Sandy Farmed Landscapes* Broad Regional LCT, and specifically the *Sandstone Hills and Ridges* Regional LCT. It is also within the *West Cumbria Coastal Plain* Regional Landscape Character Area, which is equivalent to the National Character Area described above. Regional character types are shown on Figure 3.
- 3.5 The *Sandstone Hills and Ridges* Regional LCT comprises elevated sandstone hills and ridges and occurs in three principal areas in the North West: north of Penrith; St Bees Head; and central Cheshire. The key characteristics applicable to the St Bees area are summarised as follows:
- Steeply sloping sandstone hills and ridges / cliffs;
 - Pastoral land use dominates, with hawthorn hedgerow field boundaries;
 - Settlement is not prominent – low density dispersed farms and occasional villages;
 - Vernacular buildings of local sandstone;
 - Some sense of wildness in uncultivated heathland areas; and
 - Spectacular long-distance views from cliff tops.
- 3.6 The *Open Sea* Regional LCT is also of relevance to this study, in describing the character of Saltom Bay. The key characteristics experienced in Saltom Bay are as follows:
- Shallow plains of mud, sand and mixed sediment;
 - Flat to gently sloping with occasional shelves and canyons;
 - Sandstone rocks off St Bees Head provide important habitat variation supporting sea sponges, sea pen gardens and sea urchin ranges; and
 - Open and expansive views.

Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit

- 3.7 The **Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit** (Cumbria County Council, 2011) identifies landscape character types (LCTs) across Cumbria. The Heritage Coast falls within the *Coastal Sandstone* LCT (04), with the exception of a very small area which falls within the *Bay and Estuary* LCT (01), sub-type *Intertidal Flats* (1a). Southwest of Whitehaven there is a small area of *Lowland* LCT (05), sub-type *Urban Fringe* (5d).
- 3.8 The *Coastal Sandstone* LCT extends from Whitehaven to St Bees Head, and south to Sellafield. The key characteristics are summarised as follows:
- Dramatic sandstone cliffs at St Bees Head are a prominent feature, supporting breeding sea birds and bringing a sense of 'naturalness';
 - Undulating hills and plateau-like area around St Bees, intersected by Pow Beck;
 - Patchwork of open regular pastoral fields divided by often prominent hedge banks;
 - Small woodland blocks along sides of the Pow Beck and its tributaries;
 - Lightly settled with farmsteads and hamlets, many built using traditional red sandstone;
 - St Bees area characterised by remnants of a 12th Century Priory; and
 - Wide and uninterrupted views along the coast and out to sea emphasises the sense of remoteness.
- 3.9 The *Intertidal Flats* LCT extends between St Bees and the edge of the Lake District National Park at Drigg. This is a dynamic tidal landscape of mudflats, sand, shingle and pebble beaches contrasting with the open water.
- 3.10 The small patch of *Urban Fringe* LCT to the southwest of Whitehaven is agricultural land subjected to long term urban and industrial influences, often associated with mineral working.

Figure 3 - Regional Character Types



Local Character Areas

- 3.11 The **Landscape Character Assessment of the South Whitehaven Coast** (Friends of the Lake District for the National Trust, 2006) identifies three character sub-types within the 4 km long stretch of coast between Whitehaven's South Beach in the north and Birkhams Quarry in the south: coastal fringe; undulating agricultural zone; and urban/industrial fringe. Each character type has been further sub-divided into character areas. Character types and areas are shown on Figure 4.
- 3.12 The key characteristics of the study area for the character assessment are as follows:
- *"Large scale landscape, becoming more open and exposed near the coast;*
 - *Landscape complexity varies between managed texture of the pasture and neglected low hedges, to the vast angular scale of the cliffs;*
 - *A landscape made up of precipitous open coastline, urban fringe areas, undulating pasture, large rectangular fields, stunted trees, quarrying, wire fences and hedge banks;*
 - *Constantly changing views from the wide open vistas across the sea to Scotland and the Isle of Man, contrasting with the high Lakeland fells to the east, and the urban and industrial settlements to the north;*
 - *Strong industrial history associated with coal mining, chemical works and small scale quarrying, within living memory being a major area of employment;*
 - *Limited scrub woodland cover;*
 - *Three Scheduled Ancient Monuments – Haig and Saltom Pits, Barrowmouth Gypsum Mines;*

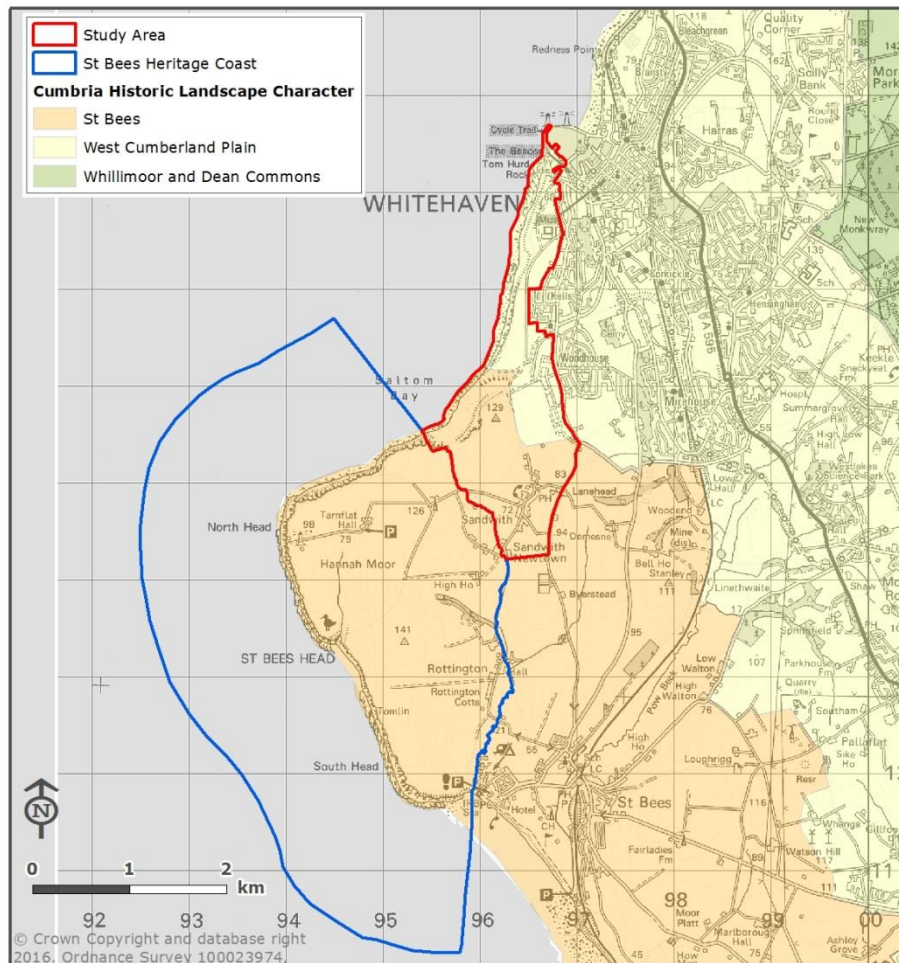
Seascape Character

- 3.13 A **Draft Marine Character Assessment** has been prepared for the North West Marine Plan Area (LUC, 2015). The study area falls within Draft MCA 38 – Solway Firth. The headland at St Bees marks the transition from the more enclosed seascape to the north and the outward-facing coast to the south.
- 3.14 The key characteristics of *Draft MCA 38 – Solway Firth*, of relevance to the study area, are as follows:
- Intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh and raised mires are key habitat types;
 - Bedrock geology of mudstones and sandstones, including the St Bees Sandstone which outcrops at the cliffs of St Bees Head;
 - A series of small but active ports with docks and associated infrastructure; and
 - The coastline drops rapidly from the 90m cliffs at St Bees to a low, narrow, rocky foreshore.
- 3.15 South of St Bees Head the coastline falls within Draft MCA 39 – St Bees to Haverigg Coastal Waters.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 3.16 Historic Landscape Character Areas are shown on Figure 5. A **Guide to Using the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Database** (Cumbria County Council, 2009) describes the character of the St Bees area (area 42). It notes the following:
- Lack of modern and industrial influenced development;
 - Settlement pattern a mix of nucleated (all pre-dating 1770) and discrete settlements (within areas of planned enclosure), some exhibiting evidence of medieval planning;
 - Field pattern a mix of former common arable field, ancient enclosures and planned enclosure, with boundary hedgerows; and
 - Very little woodland, a few small blocks of plantation or tiny patches of ancient woodland.
- 3.17 The neighbouring West Cumberland Plain (area 47) which includes part of the study area is described as follows:
- Low-lying coastal area, with low, eroding cliffs form the seaward edge;
 - Dominated by urban and industrial development;
 - Whitehaven is a post-medieval planned town, with a long industrial and maritime history;
 - Field pattern has been disrupted by modern development, where discerned the fieldscape is dominated by ancient enclosures.

Figure 5 - Historic Landscape Characterisation

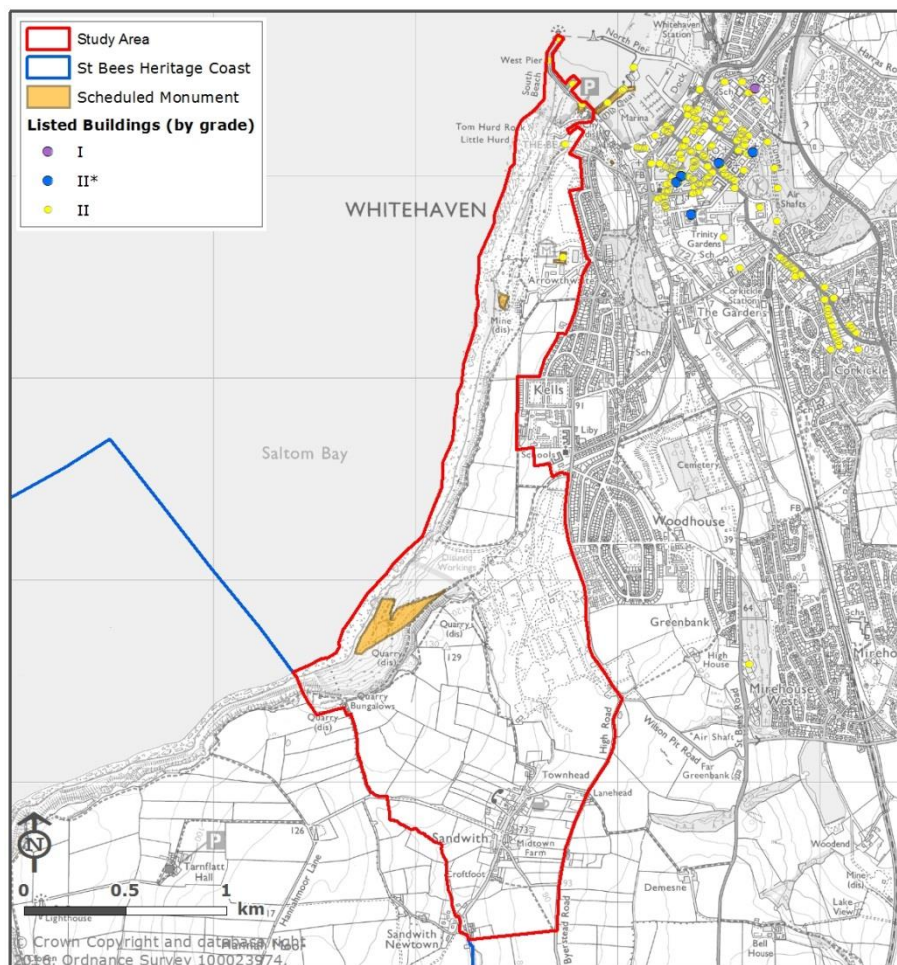


Landscape Change and Cultural Heritage

- 3.18 Whitehaven was originally a fishing village, until Sir Christopher Lowther (a merchant and landowner) decided to use Whitehaven as a port for exporting coal from the Cumbrian coalfield to Ireland. The development of Whitehaven Harbour began with the construction of Old Quay in 1634, which was followed by a period of rapid growth for the town. The Georgian town was planned on a grid pattern by Lord Lonsdale in the 1640's, a layout which is still discernable today.
- 3.19 The port continued to grow during the 18th century, with sugar, limes, tobacco and timber adding to the list of imports / exports. It became one of the most important ports in the country, but due to the shallow harbour and poor connections inland was in decline by the mid-1800s.
- 3.20 An exploratory bore for Saltom Pit, on the coast south of Whitehaven, was first sunk by Carlisle Spedding (an employee of the Lowther family) and work on the pit began in 1729. Saltom Pit was the first undersea coal mine in England. The Howgill Incline was built in 1813 and connected Saltom Pit to the harbour, until the pit was abandoned in 1848. The shell of the main engine and winding house remain on the lower slopes of the cliff; designated as a Scheduled Monument they form one of the most significant sites in the archaeology of coal mining and are a distinctive and evocative landmark of the coast today. The Wellington Pit just south of the harbour was sunk in 1838 and worked until 1931. The mine vent, known as the Candlestick chimney, was built in 1840 and remains an important listed landmark in views along the coast and from Whitehaven.
- 3.21 Coal mining boomed in the 18th and 19th Centuries with the construction of the railways, and the port of Whitehaven continued to prosper largely because of coal exports; West Pier was built in 1838, and North Pier followed in 1841.

- 3.22 The first reference to gypsum and alabaster mining at Barrowmouth is from 1794; alabaster was used for making moulds at Whitehaven Pottery Works, and gypsum was processed into wallboards nearby. The mine closed in 1908 and its overgrown remains are now a Scheduled Monument.
- 3.23 Haig Pit was sunk in the early 20th century and worked seams up to 7km out to sea. Haig Colliery remained as Cumbria's last deep mine until 1986 when it closed in response to the changing nature of energy sources in the UK, and was converted into the Haig Museum complex in 1997. Two extant engine houses and pithead winding gear provide a powerful, visual reminder of the industrial history of this coast.
- 3.24 The Marchon Chemical Company moved to Whitehaven in 1940 to avoid German bombing, and began operation at the site in Kells in 1943, producing chemicals such as sulphuric acid. The site was later taken over by Rhodia before its closure in 2005.
- 3.25 A 100-berth marina was built in Whitehaven Harbour in 1997 symbolising the renaissance of the port from heavy industry to tourism.
- 3.26 In summary, the coastline between Whitehaven and the St Bees headland contains a remarkable collection of heritage assets relating to its industrial and mining history. Collectively, these add a further layer of interest adding to rather than detracting from its natural beauty. Further analysis of this distinctive historic industrial landscape is required as part of a comprehensive area-wide management plan with appropriate recommendations for its recording, conservation and enhancement. Cultural heritage designations are shown on Figure 6.

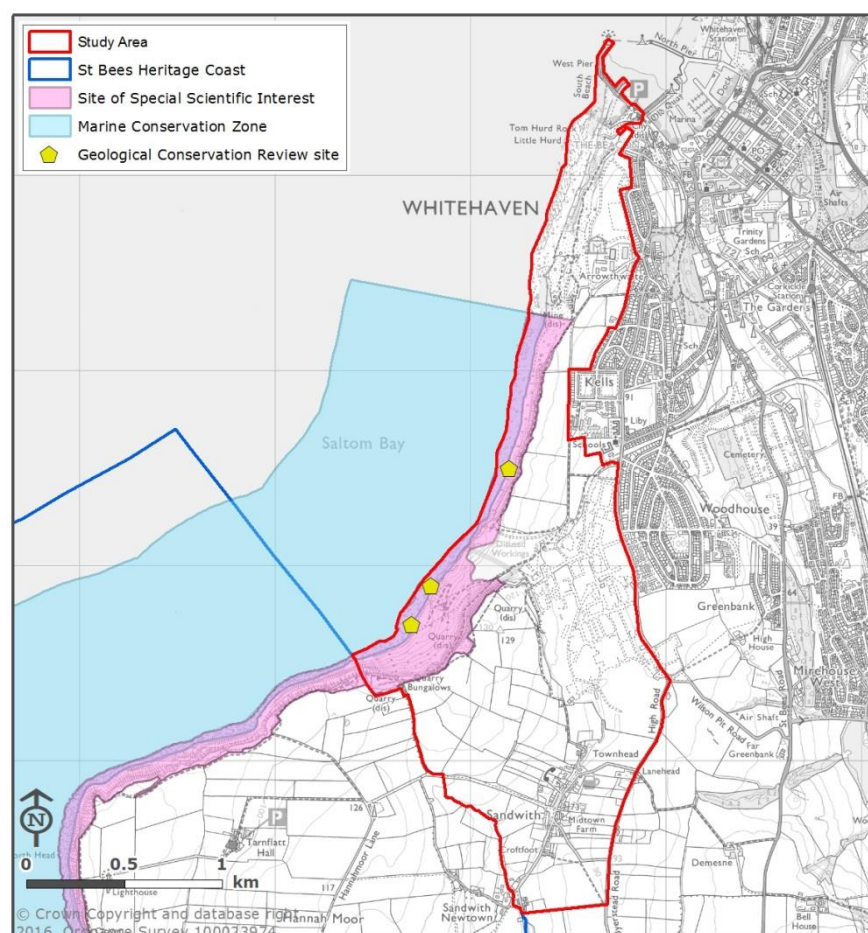
Figure 6 – Cultural Heritage Designations



The Natural Landscape

- 3.27 The study area is also nationally important for biodiversity. Natural environment designations are shown on Figure 7. The entire coastal edge and foreshore forms part of the Cumbria Coast MCZ which runs south of Whitehaven, encompassing St Bees Head and southwards to Ravenglass. The MCZ provides important examples of intertidal, rocky shore habitats and communities on this sedimentary coast.
- 3.28 The St Bees SSSI similarly extends northwards from the existing Heritage Coast headland towards Whitehaven at Saltom, encompassing sheer cliff face, cliff top grassland and the shore to low mean water mark. The exposed St Bees sandstones are of great geological interest for their sedimentary structures. In Saltom Bay the foreshore and adjacent areas provide the best exposures of Permian rock sequence and marine strata in Cumbria. The SSSI encompasses a number of different habitats including natural cliff top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff fall rubble, shingle and wave cut platform. The outstanding interest of the area is in the role of the sheer cliffs as a breeding site for seabirds, including 2000 pairs of guillemot, plus fulmar, kittiwake, razorbill, cormorant, puffin, shag and herring gull. They are the only breeding site on the coast of England for black guillemots.
- 3.29 The site and sound of sea bird contributes much to the distinctive sense of place of the entire coastline south of Whitehaven contributing to its outstanding natural beauty.
- 3.30 The important geological interest is further recognised through a number of Geological Conservation Review Sites (GCR) within the proposed extension area.
- 3.31 The contiguous high biodiversity interest represented by the MCZ, SSSI and GCR which extend northwards from the St Bees headland towards Whitehaven provide a nationally important resource for biodiversity and geodiversity and further promote the need for integrated management of this exceptional coastal zone.

Figure 7 – Natural Environment Designations



4 Landscape characterisation

- 4.1 Local landscape and seascape character areas with shared characteristics have been identified within the area under consideration for inclusion in the St Bees Heritage Coast. Key characteristics, based on desk study of existing information and site survey for each are set out in **Table 2** below, and shown on Figure 8. These sub areas form the basis for the analysis of natural beauty to assess whether it meets the criteria for definition as an extended area of Heritage Coast.

Table 2: Character areas and key characteristics

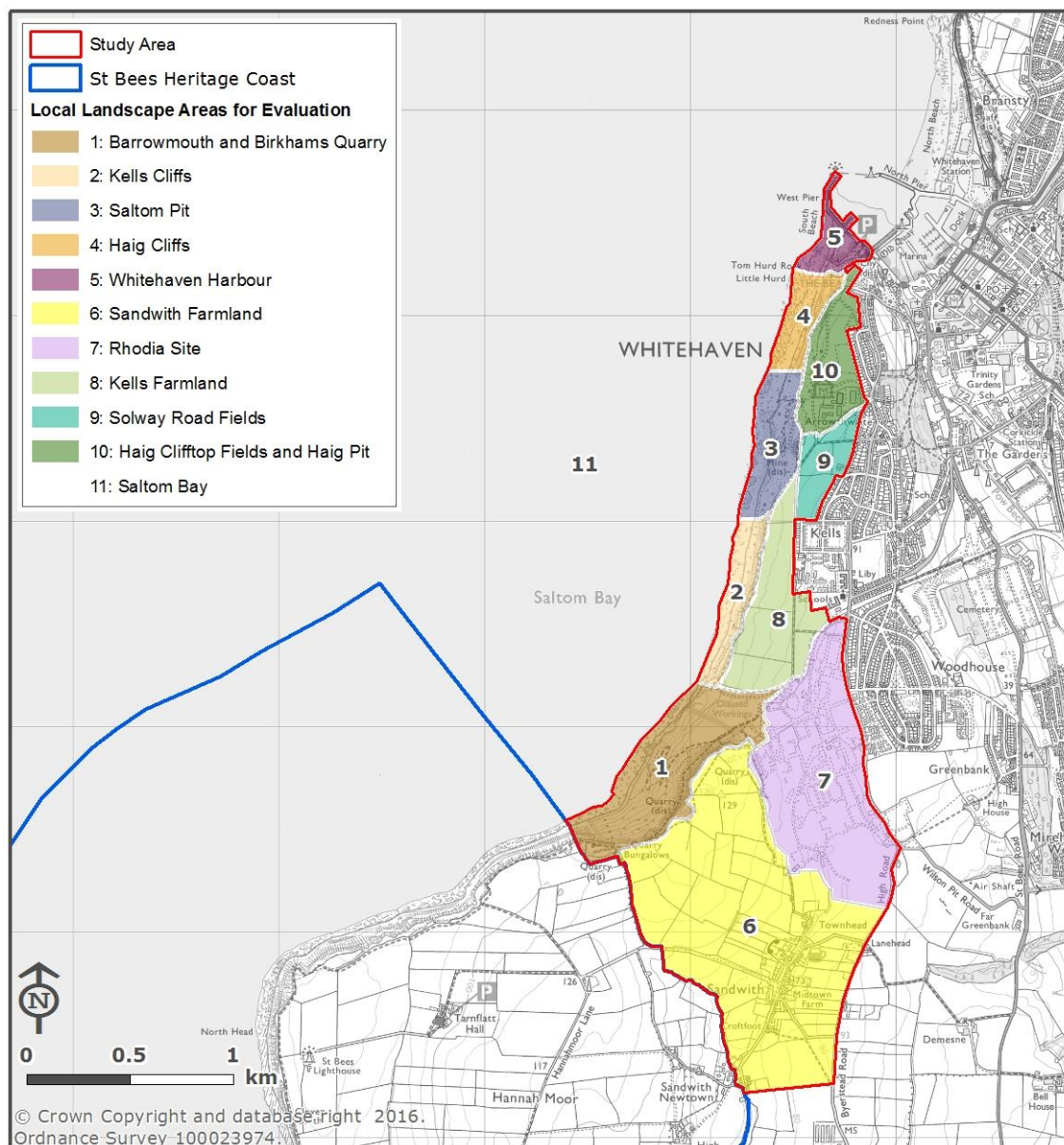
Character areas	Key characteristics
Coastal	
1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep, vertical scarp cliffs up to 90m in height, curving around undulating heathland with a pebble seashore at their base; • At Barrowmouth Beach there is a rugged rock platform up to about 25m wide backed by a near-vertical sea-cliff a few metres high, and designated as a Geological Conservation Review Site; • Barrowmouth Common is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast, dominated by scrub, gorse and bracken, with some regenerating woodland; • Barrowmouth is secluded by virtue of the landform with the cliffs turning inland with creating a wide sloping bay, contributing to the strong sense of enclosure, remoteness and tranquillity; • A former gypsum / alabaster mine at Barrowmouth is a Scheduled Monument, now overgrown with vegetation and presenting as a mysterious feature in the landscape; • Birkhams Quarry is a small, occasionally active quarry located at the cliff top overlooking Barrowmouth Common, straddling the existing Heritage Coast boundary; • Included within St Bees Head SSSI, important for its geology, habitats and breeding bird colonies; • In close proximity to the Rhodia site the landscape appears more degraded and influenced by the nearby urban fringe; • PROW will form part of the England Coast Path; in this area the path is unsurfaced; • Exposed to wind and waves crashing on the foreshore, except on Barrowmouth Common where the enclosing cliffs provide a strong sense of remoteness; • Open, panoramic views north west from the cliff top, across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man; with views becoming more enclosed on the Common.
2. Kells Cliffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrow coastal cliff landscape; • Medium scale, steeply sloping and indented sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height, with a mostly inaccessible rocky foreshore; • Grassland on cliff top, vegetation on cliff faces; • Includes part of St Bees Head SSSI, important for its geology, habitats and breeding bird colonies, and part of the cliff is a Geological Conservation Review Site; • Some degradation due to natural land slippage and erosion; • Natural and undeveloped, except for some low key signage; • A PROW runs along the cliff top, which will form part of the England Coast Path; in this area the footpath is unsurfaced;

Character areas	Key characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed and windswept, dominated by the open sea and the noise of the waves on the rocky shore; Open, panoramic views west from the cliff top, across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man.
3. Saltom Pit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A straight, narrow coastal strip; Medium scale steeply sloping sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height, and colonised by coastal heathland and grassland; The shell of the main engine and winding house of Saltom Pit, a former undersea mine (Scheduled Monument), nestle at the base of the cliffs on the flat foreshore forming a highly distinctive and evocative landmark when it suddenly comes into view; Some degradation due to natural land slippage and erosion; Crushed stone footpath along cliff top will form part of the England Coast Path, public rights of way connect to the foreshore via former pit trackways; Exposed and windswept, dominated by the open sea and the noise of the waves on the rocky shore, although proximity to urban fringe reduces sense of tranquillity at cliff top; Strong sense of enclosure and sense of remoteness can be experienced from the bay; Open, panoramic views north west from the cliff top, across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man, as well as views back to Whitehaven.
4. Haig Cliffs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A narrow coastal cliff landscape; Steeply sloping, medium scale sandstone cliffs; Some degradation due to natural land slippage and erosion, signage and fences – not currently accessible; Separated from crushed stone footpath which will form part of the England Coast Path by a fence, which contains coastal heath vegetation on the seaward side; Windswept, with the sound of waves crashing on the rocky foreshore; Open, panoramic views west from the cliff top, across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man, as well as views north and east to the Whitehaven fringe and south to the cliffs at St Bees Head.
5. Whitehaven Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex and dramatic landscape of low cliffs with a shingle shoreline, backed by terraces associated with Wellington Pit, with larger cliffs at Tom Hurd Rock; Strong sense of place owing to layers of historic development, including Old Quay (built 1634), the harbour walls and remnants of Wellington Pit, including the Candlestick, a local landmark; Several listed buildings including Old New Quay, West Pier Lighthouse, Old Fort and Jonathan Swift House; Vegetation comprises semi-improved and amenity grassland, with some acid heath in a gulley which was a former railway incline; Several large car parks, and a modern marina in the inner harbour; England Coast Path will run along South Harbour, locally known as West Strand, and up onto the cliff top; Populated, but with places where solitude can be enjoyed; Panoramic views across the harbour to Whitehaven, and across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway.
Hinterland	
6. Sandwith Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gently undulating or sloping agricultural land, traversed by narrow becks and minor roads; Medium size regular arable fields and smaller pastoral fields, with historic

Character areas	Key characteristics
	<p>field pattern around the village of Sandwith;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fields enclosed by fences, hedgebanks or traditional stone walls; • Little tree cover, where trees exist they tend to be wind stunted; • Public rights of way connect Sandwith to coastal footpaths, including part of the Coast to Coast long distance route; • Undulating topography creates a series of changing vistas, views include those east to the mountains of the Lake District, and more locally to a mast on Hannahmoor Lane, within the existing Heritage Coast; • A trig point marks a local high spot of 129m AOD in the west; • Strong sense of the coast and cliffs on the western edge, where the fields are elevated and overlook the coast.
7. Rhodia Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large area of waste ground, formerly a chemical works which was demolished in 2005; • Contained by landform to the west and housing / farmland to the east; • Land cover comprises areas of hardstanding, unmanaged semi-improved grassland and bare ground with colonising vegetation; • Fenced off to prevent public access; • Largely flat with local undulations resulting from former buildings and demolition; • Views east across Whitehaven to the Lake District, west to Barrowmouth cliffs, north across Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway, and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man.
8. Kells Farmland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes cliff top strip of rough grassland, backed by arable fields on gently sloping land between the coastal cliffs and Whitehaven urban edge at Kells; • Elevated and exposed arable farmland contained within large fields, some remnant hedge banks with the potential for restoration; • Simple, open character, providing a backdrop to the narrow coastal cliffs; • Partially overlooked and with views to housing at Kells and Woodhouse, but appears strongly rural, particularly when seen in longer views from the coast to the south and in views from Whitehaven to the north; • Accessible with several public rights of way, and will be included as part of the England Coast Path on the seaward edge; • Open views north and west to the open sea including across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man, to the north and east to the urban edge of Whitehaven and south to Barrowmouth and St Bees Head; • Strong sense of exposure, particularly from western side, with coastal sounds including seabirds.
9. Solway Road Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently sloping grazing land and fields colonised by scrub, between the coastal strip to the west and Whitehaven urban fringe to the east; • Fields enclosed by post and wire fencing or traditional stone walls at right angles to the coast; • Crossed by Ravenhill Track, with the footpath that will form part of the England Coast Path along the western boundary; • Semi-rural in nature but overlooked by housing, reducing tranquillity; • Views across the expansive Solway Firth and Irish Sea, with the cliffs at St Bees Head visible to the south, and Haig Colliery buildings forming a local landmark to the north.
10. Haig clifftop fields and Haig Pit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gently sloping semi-improved and amenity grassland between the coastal strip to the west and Whitehaven urban fringe to the east; • Recreational uses including footpaths and a rugby pitch; • Well used footpath runs along coastal edge. This route will form part of the England Coast Path; • Haig Pit mining machinery a local landmark (now partially enclosed by a

Character areas	Key characteristics
	<p>business park);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views south to St Bees Head, north to Whitehaven and beyond, and west to the open sea.
Marine	
11. Saltom Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small scale, gently curving bay between North Head in the south and Whitehaven Harbour in the north; Fringed by 90m sandstone cliffs at St Bees Head in the south, continuing northwards decreasing in elevation towards Whitehaven in the north forming a distinctive colourful coast; Bedrock geology of mudstones and sandstones; former coal mine seams extend out under the sea from the coast; Intertidal zone comprised of boulder strewn wave cut sandstone platforms , a small area of sand and a shingle beach; Includes part of St Bees Head SSSI, important for its geology, habitats and breeding bird colonies; Includes part of the Cumbria Coast Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), important for its intertidal rocky shore habitats and communities; Contrast between rugged, remote cliffs and active harbour and marina at Whitehaven; Focal points in landward views from the bay include the Candlestick in Whitehaven, the Haig Pit headgear, and the dramatic cliffs at St Bees Head extending northwards.

Figure 8 – Sub Areas for Assessment



5 Landscape Evaluation Summaries

- 5.1 This section provides evaluation summaries drawing together detailed information for each of the 10 terrestrial sub areas, showing how they meet the criteria for definition as Heritage Coast. The detailed evaluation tables are provided as **Appendix 2**. At the end of each summary, a box is provided giving recommendations as to whether the area should be included as part of the heritage coast. Where relevant a description of the proposed boundary line is provided.

1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry

Landscape context

- 5.2 This coastal area is located between the existing northern boundary of St Bees Heritage Coast at Birkhams Quarry (also known as St Bees Quarry) in the south, and the undulating farmland and narrow coastal strip west of Kells. It comprises vertical sandstone cliffs, curving around lower-lying, undulating coastal heath, with a narrow foreshore of sandstone boulders and sand. The area is within the St Bees Head SSSI, of importance for its geology, habitats and breeding bird colonies. The overgrown remains of the Barrowmouth Gypsum and Alabaster mine are a Scheduled Monument. Birkhams Quarry is a small, seasonally operational quarry located at the cliff top, crossing the existing Heritage Coast boundary. To the northeast the area is bordered by part of the extensive former Rhodia chemical works. The cliff tops and undulating heath are exposed, and there is a strong sense of remoteness despite relative proximity to the edge of Whitehaven at Kells, particularly where the cliffs wrap around the undulating heath. The only habitation being a pair of bungalows adjacent to the quarry. The Common is open access land and there are public footpaths along the cliff tops and crossing the lower lying heath, allowing access to the shore. The Coast to Coast walking route follows the cliff top before heading inland towards Sandwith and the England Coast Path will follow the coastal edge along the cliff top. Views are dominated by the open seas to the west, with the Isle of Man and Dumfries and Galloway visible to the southwest and northwest, respectively. Views are also focused on the landform at St Bees Head to the south.



Barrowmouth Common as seen from Birkhams Quarry, looking north

Scenic quality

- 5.3 The landscape **fully meets the scenic quality criteria** owing to the distinctive sense of place created by its steep sandstone cliffs, extensive, undulating areas of coastal heath vegetation and sense of remoteness. This is a diverse and colourful landscape, with the reddish-brown of the cliff faces contrasting with the purples, oranges and greens of the heath. The sounds and smells of the sea and the colony of seabirds can be experienced from the exposed cliff tops, and more sheltered shoreline below. Detractors from scenic quality include Birkhams Quarry, a small, occasionally active, quarry located on the cliff top and straddling the existing Heritage Coast boundary, and the land adjacent to the Rhodia fenceline. The landscape **meets some of the landscape quality criteria**, as although parts of it are intact, others have experienced some degradation, notably Birkhams Quarry in the south and the reclaimed washings tip adjacent to the Rhodia site. There is also a need for management of the coastal heathland.
- 5.4 **Overall the area can clearly be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.**

Substantially undeveloped: Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.5 Parts of the area **meet some of the relative wildness criteria**. The area has a strong sense of remoteness, and is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast. It is accessible only on foot, with the exception of the quarry which is accessed via a minor road and has elevated views towards Whitehaven. From the cliff tops the sounds and smells of the sea can be experienced, particularly on windy days. Along the shoreline the rising landform to the east provides some shelter notably at Barrowmouth. Human influences are more prevalent in the north of the area, bordering the derelict chemical works site which is overlooked by the residential areas of Kells and Woodhouse. The majority of the landscape **fully meets the relative tranquillity criteria**, with the exception of Birkhams Quarry where periodic workings take place. The landscape appears naturalistic, although it has been locally modified by mineral workings. The former Gypsum and Alabaster works at Barrowmouth have largely regenerated forming a naturalistic landscape. A sense of peace and tranquillity can be experienced on some days, on others the landscape feels wild and exposed.
- 5.6 **Overall the area can be described as being “substantially undeveloped”.**

**Contains features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made:
Natural and man-made features**

- 5.7 In terms of ***natural heritage features the area fully meets the criteria***. The cliffs fall within St Bees Head SSSI and the coastal section at Barrowmouth is known to be the best exposure of late Permian marine strata in Cumbria. In addition, Barrowmouth is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast, contributing to the areas' distinctive sense of place. The biological interest of the St Bees Head SSSI is represented in a number of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform. There is a Geological Conservation Review Site (GCRS) at Barrowmouth Beach, a shingly beach with rock platforms. The GCRS comprising a "*rugged marine rock platform up to about 25 m wide backed by a near-vertical sea-cliff a few metres high*". This area is of interest as it displays "*the best exposure of late Permian marine strata in Cumbria and is also one of the best exposures of early Permian continental breccias (brockram) and of the underlying Carboniferous–Permian unconformity*".³ In terms of ***cultural heritage features the area fully meets the criteria***; Barrowmouth gypsum and alabaster mine at Saltom Bay is a Scheduled Monument. The monument includes the remains of buildings, levels, spoil heaps, enclosures and an inclined plane, although it is now overgrown with vegetation which creates a sense of timelessness and return to nature. Sandstone has been quarried from Birkhams Quarry since the 18th century, and the area has been a source of building stone since medieval times. Notable projects where stone from the quarry has been used include the Castle and Cathedral in Carlisle, and further afield at Liverpool's Albert Dock.
- 5.8 **Overall it is considered that the area contains "*features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made*".**



Barrowmouth Common looking south towards St Bees Head

³ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/gcrdb/GCRsiteaccount3015.pdf>

Evaluation

Overall the area can clearly be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”, despite some minor incongruous elements such as Birkhams Quarry and a reclaimed washings tip adjacent to the Rhodia site.

It is recommended that the majority of area 1 should be included within the Heritage Coast, with the exception of the degraded land adjacent to area 7 (centred on approx. GR 296322 515987). Here, the boundary should follow the hard surfaced footpath (a public right of way) which runs on the seaward side of the Rhodia fence line, not the fence line itself. The area between the footpath and fenceline is not currently suitable for inclusion although would benefit from habitat restoration / enhancement. Birkhams Quarry is already partly included within the existing Heritage Coast and there is no reason why this small, occasionally active, quarry should be excluded from the extended area.

2. Kells Cliffs

Landscape context

- 5.9 This narrow area of coastal cliffs is located on the edge of the arable farmland to the west of Kells, between Barrowmouth Common and Saltom Pit. The coast comprises steeply sloping and heavily indented sandstone cliffs with a mostly inaccessible rocky foreshore. A PROW runs along the cliff top, and will form part of the England Coast Path. The cliffs are partially colonised by vegetation and there is grassland on the cliff top. The area is within the St Bees Head SSSI, of importance for its geology, habitats and breeding bird colonies. Part of the cliffs is also a Geological Conservation Review Site. This coastline is exposed and can be windswept, with strong experiential qualities such as the sound of waves breaking on the shore and birds nesting in the cliffs. Views are dominated by the open seas to the west, with the Isle of Man and Dumfries and Galloway visible to the southwest and northwest, respectively. The dramatic St Bees Head coastline is visible to the south, with Saltom Pit occasionally visible to the north. On the cliff top there are views to the residential area of Kells to the east.



Cliffs below Kells, looking north towards Saltom Pit

Scenic quality

- 5.10 The cliffs **fully meet the scenic quality criteria**; they have a strong sense of place resulting from the rugged sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height, coastal heath vegetation and relationship with the sea. The cliffs support a variety of habitats including grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, with a boulder shore. The coast is exposed and windswept, with the sound of waves crashing on the foreshore and birds nesting in the cliffs. Despite some natural land slippage, the **area fully meets the landscape quality criteria**, as there are few incongruous features.
- 5.11 **Overall the area can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.**

Substantially undeveloped: Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.12 In terms of **relative wildness the area fully meets the criteria**, as it is a landscape with few built features except for some signposting of footpaths, and is perceived to be remote from transport routes and habitation despite relative proximity to Whitehaven. The cliff top is open and exposed, with strong experiential qualities linked to St. Bees Head and absence of urban features

such as fencing, despite views from the cliff top to the urban edge of Whitehaven. In terms of relative tranquillity, this is a highly natural landscape - views from the area are dominated by the open seas, and waves can be heard crashing on the shore along with birds nesting in the cliffs. The coastal footpath will form part of the England Coast Path. The area is judged to **fully meet the criteria for tranquillity**.

5.13 Overall this area can be described as being “substantially undeveloped”.

**Contains features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made:
Natural and man-made features**

5.14 The area **fully meets the natural heritage features criteria**. All of the area falls within the St Bees Head SSSI, noted to provide the best exposure of the Permian rock sequence and marine strata in Cumbria and also the best available exposure of the St Bees Sandstone formation. The cliffs are up to 50m in height and represent a number of different habitat types including grassland and heath, sheer cliff face, cliff-fall rubble and shingle. Part of the cliffs is a Geological Conservation Review Site. The sub area **does not meet the cultural heritage criteria** – it contains no buildings or known heritage assets/cultural associations.

5.15 Overall it is considered that the area does contain “features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made”.



Cliffs below Kells, looking south towards St Bees Head

Evaluation

Overall the Kells Cliffs area can clearly be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”, as it is a natural landscape of sandstone cliffs with a strong sense of place.

There are no incongruous features of note, and it is recommended that all of area 2 be included within the Heritage Coast.

3. Saltom Pit

Landscape context

- 5.16 This narrow coastal strip is continuous with the Kells Cliffs to the south and Haig Cliffs to the north. It comprises steeply sloping cliffs of up to 50m in height, colonised by coastal heath vegetation and grassland. The foreshore is broad and rocky, with some grassland. The area is differentiated from the cliffs to the north and south by the presence of the distinctive remains of Saltom Pit; England's first under-sea coal mine. The former trackways to the pit provide rare access to the shoreline. The ruined mine building, a Scheduled Monument, nestles at the base of the cliffs, creating a distinctive and evocative landmark when it comes into view. A crushed stone footpath runs along the cliff top, and will form part of the England Coast Path. Routes connect to the shoreline via trackways (fenced off at the time of survey). The cliff top can be exposed and windswept, although the bay itself can provide a sense of shelter. Views are focused out to the open sea to the west, with the Isle of Man and Dumfries and Galloway visible to the southwest and northwest, respectively. At the cliff top, views to residential and industrial development around the Haig Museum complex (in the adjacent area 10) reduce the sense of wildness and remoteness experienced, to an extent, although the Haig Pit head winding gear creates a strong sense of place and is a significant visual focus point.



Saltom Pit and beach, looking west from the coastal footpath above

Scenic quality

- 5.17 ***This area fully meets the scenic quality criteria***, having a recognisable sense of place due to its rugged sandstone cliffs of up to 50m in height and rocky bay, juxtaposed with the ruins of Saltom Pit. The cliffs support a variety of habitat types, including grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble. The cliffs are exposed and windswept, although a sense of shelter can be experienced in Saltom Bay. The area ***meets some of the landscape quality criteria***; there has been some erosion of the cliff face, and the bay is currently fenced off to prevent public access. Parts of the landscape have been modified by the former pit mineral workings and there is some fencing/signage.
- 5.18 **Overall the area can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.**

Substantially undeveloped: Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.19 In terms ***of relative wildness the area meets some of the criteria***, as it is perceived to be remote from roads and residential areas from within the bay, but at the cliff top urban influences such as housing and industry are more obvious, albeit peripheral, and there are some elements of degradation. The area is open and exposed, and offers both a sense of exposure to the elements and enclosure / isolation within the bay. In terms of relative ***tranquillity the area meets some of these criteria***; the coastal footpath is popular with walkers, and the cliff top is in proximity to residential areas, the former Haig Museum complex and small business park, reducing the sense of tranquillity. At other times there is a sense of peace and quiet, particularly within the bay.
- 5.20 **Overall the area itself can be described as being "substantially undeveloped", although noting that there are views to urban areas in close proximity and there is some local degradation.**

Contains features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made: Natural and man-made features

- 5.21 The area ***fully meets the natural heritage features criteria***, owing to its display of layers of rock in the cliff faces and its mosaic of cliff surface vegetation including maritime grassland, heath, bracken and slumped bare ground. The area ***fully meets the cultural heritage features criteria***, due to the presence of Saltom Pit, a Scheduled Monument. An exploratory bore for the pit was first sunk by Carlisle Spedding, and work on the pit began in 1729. The mineshaft was 146m deep, with the furthest coalface at least 2km from shore. Working the pit was a dangerous profession, and many workers, including children, lost their lives in Saltom's tunnels. The pit was abandoned in 1848, but continues to have a strong resonance with local people in Whitehaven today.
- 5.22 **Overall it is considered that the area contains "features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made".**



Undulating coastal heath with rocky foreshore below, looking south to St Bees Head

Evaluation

Overall the area can clearly be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”. It is considered that the ruins of Saltom Pit, a Scheduled Monument, contribute to scenic quality.

It is recommended that all of area 3 be included within the Heritage Coast.

4. Haig Cliffs

Landscape context

- 5.23 A narrow coastal cliff landscape, continuous with the bay containing Saltom Pit to the south. The coast comprises steeply sloping medium scale sandstone cliffs with an inaccessible rocky foreshore. A crushed stone footpath runs along the cliff top, which will form part of the England Coast Path, and separating the coastal heath vegetation of the cliff from the managed grassland of Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig to the east. The coastal strip can be windswept, with the sound of waves crashing and seabirds, although urban influences reduce the sense of tranquillity. Views are dominated by the open seas to the west, with the Isle of Man and Dumfries and Galloway visible to the southwest and northwest, respectively. The cliffs of St Bees Head are visible to the south. The Haig Museum complex and pit winding gear are a notable feature in views to the southeast, and views into Whitehaven Harbour are available to the north.



Undulating coastal heath, looking south towards St Bees Head

Scenic quality

- 5.24 These coastal cliffs **fully meet the scenic quality criteria**, as they are a natural cliff landscape of rugged sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height with a strong relationship with the open sea. They are a striking coastal landform with a distinctive sense of place. The cliffs support a variety of habitat types, including cliff top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, and boulder strewn rocky shore, mirroring the attributes of the adjacent SSSI. The area has strong experiential characteristics, being subject to wind and wave erosion, and birds can be heard nesting in the cliffs. There are panoramic views of the open sea, and the cliffs of St Bees Head to the south, which brings with it a sense of a more remote coastline.
- 5.25 In terms of **landscape quality parts of the area meet the criteria**, there are some incongruous features including fencing, signage and urban fringe influences and the cliff face has been subject to some natural erosion and slippage.
- 5.26 **Overall, despite local impacts on landscape quality the area can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.**

Substantially undeveloped: Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.27 In terms **of relative wildness the area meets some of the criteria**. The coastline is open and exposed at the cliff tops, with expansive views across the open sea and south to St Bees Head and walking south, away from Whitehaven engenders a sense of remoteness. The cliffs have been partially colonised by coastal heath vegetation. There are few built structures and the coast is not directly overlooked by roads or housing. **In terms of relative tranquillity the area meets some of the criteria;** wheeling seabirds are a feature and the sea can be heard crashing at the base of the cliffs. However the coastal path is popular with walkers, including dog walkers, owing to its proximity to residential areas which reduces the sense of remoteness. From the cliff top itself Whitehaven has a strong urban presence.
- 5.1 **Overall this area can be described as being “substantially undeveloped”, although noting that there are views to urban areas in close proximity and there is some local degradation.**

Contains features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made: Natural and man-made features

- 5.2 The area **fully meets the natural heritage features criteria** for its expression of the sandstone geology in the cliff faces and its mosaic of coastal habitats supporting breeding birds. The habitats mirror the adjacent SSSI designated coast. The cliffs are up to 50m in height, sheer in places and slumping in others. **The area does not meet the cultural heritage features criteria** as there are no known heritage assets or cultural associations.
- 5.3 **Overall it is considered that the area contains some “features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made”.**



Coastal footpath at cliff top, looking north

Evaluation

Overall the Haig Cliffs area can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”, despite some local impacts on landscape quality.

It is recommended that all of area 4 be included within the Heritage Coast.

5. Whitehaven Harbour

Landscape context

- 5.4 This is a complex landscape comprising low cliffs with a shingle shoreline, backed by terraces modified by the restoration of Wellington Pit. A small bay to the south is backed by larger cliffs and colonised by more natural coastal heath. A notable characteristic of the landscape is its multiple layers of historic development, from Old Quay constructed in 1634, to remnants of mining at Wellington Pit including the Candlestick, an old ventilation shaft and local landmark. There are several large car parks in this area and a modern marina in the inner harbour. The England Coast Path will run along South Harbour, locally known as West Strand, and up onto the cliff top via the footpaths leading to the Candlestick. From several locations, including Wellington Terrace and the Candlestick, there are panoramic views across the harbour and Whitehaven, backed by wooded hills beyond. Dumfries and Galloway is visible across the Solway Firth to the northwest, with the Isle of Man visible to the southwest. From the harbour walls themselves the cliffs at St Bees Head come into view to the south.



Southern harbour walls in views west from the Candlestick

Scenic quality

- 5.5 The area **meets some of the scenic quality** criteria; it has a strong sense of place owing to its layers of historic development and modern interpretation of historic events, its marine activity and its relationship with the open sea. The landform is relatively dramatic, with cliffs and flat terraces of varying height, the latter reflecting historic use of the area as a pit. Vegetation comprises semi-improved and amenity grassland, with some acid heath in a gulley which was a former railway incline. There are panoramic views taking in the harbour area and the expansive open seas. The area **does not meet the landscape quality criteria**; the landscape is man-modified, and natural elements are confined to the shoreline and containing cliffs. Landscape areas are functional amenity grassland which forms the setting to various structures and car parks.
- 5.6 **Overall the area cannot be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”. It does have elements of scenic quality and acts as a Key Gateway Point to the scenic coastline and the Heritage Coast.**

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.7 The area **does not meet the relative wildness criteria**; although much of it is modified by human influence, and overlooked by many of Whitehaven's residences, there are areas where a sense of solitude can be experienced and places where enclosing walls or cliff faces provide a sense of shelter and isolation. In terms of relative **tranquillity parts of the area meet** the criteria; there are places where peace and quiet can be enjoyed, although overall the area is popular with visitors and contains several car parks bringing traffic and people into the area.
- 5.8 **Overall this area cannot be described as being "substantially undeveloped".**

Natural or man-made features

- 5.9 In terms of **natural heritage features parts of the area meet the criteria**, particularly the natural cliff faces and shingly foreshore, which although not publicly accessible can be appreciated from the harbour walls. There is some coastal heath on the cliff faces enclosing the small bay to the south. In terms of **cultural heritage features the area fully meets the criteria**; there are numerous historic features such as Whitehaven Old Fort, an 18th C coastal battery and Scheduled Monument. There are several listed buildings including Old New Quay, West Pier Lighthouse, Old Fort and Jonathan Swift House. The development of the harbour is linked to the beginning of the Irish coal trade, with Old Quay constructed in 1634. The Candlestick is a key landmark, and was the ventilation shaft for Wellington Pit.
- 5.10 **Overall it is considered that the area contains "features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made".**



Coastal cliffs and shore with Candlestick beyond, in views east from harbour walls

Evaluation

Overall Whitehaven Harbour cannot be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”, as it has been man-modified and natural elements are limited to a narrow strip along the shore.

It is not recommended that area 5 be included within the Heritage Coast, although it is a Key Gateway Point to the scenic coast. It is considered that the headland at Tom Hurd Rock forms a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast, although the boundary would ideally follow a visible feature on the ground.

6. Sandwith Farmland

Landscape context

- 5.11 This is an open, rolling agricultural landscape centred on the small village of Sandwith. Agriculture is mixed arable and pasture; medium to large fields are enclosed by post and wire fencing or traditional sandstone walls. The farmland is continuous with Hannah Moor which is within the existing Heritage Coast area. There are some narrow strips of woodland and high hedgebanks along narrow lanes and field boundaries, but tree cover is limited overall. Farmsteads and buildings in Sandwith use vernacular materials, although there is some more modern housing on the edge of the village. The landscape is crossed by a network of minor roads, with a private road providing access (on foot) to the coast at Birkhams Quarry and to the existing Heritage Coast headland. The Coast to Coast long distance walking route crosses the area, through farmland on the edge of the Rhodia site and the minor roads around Sandwith. The rolling topography allows for a series of ever changing views. Those to the east take in the high peaks of the Lake District National Park, and more locally a mast on Hannahmoor Lane within the existing Heritage Coast boundary. Coastal views are limited to a row of fields above Barrowmouth, where there are open coastal views across the Solway Firth to Dumfries and Galloway and across the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man. These fields have an open and exposed character due to their elevation and proximity to the coast. In the northernmost field a trig point marks a local high spot at 129m AOD.



Rolling pasture along lane to Quarry Bungalows, looking west

Scenic quality

- 5.12 The area **meets the scenic quality criteria**; it has a recognisable sense of place owing to its rolling topography, land cover of mixed farmland and traditional settlement. However, with the exception of the fields along the north western boundary of the area, there is not a strong association with the coast, or views of the open sea. The area **meets some of the landscape quality criteria**, as it is an intact farmed landscape with a combination of natural and human elements. There are few detractors, and field boundaries appear well maintained. The farmland is similar in quality to that on Hannah Moor to the west, within the existing Heritage Coast boundary.
- 5.13 **The western part of the area has a strong coastal influence and can be described as part of “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”. The area to the east is by**

comparison traditional rolling farmland surrounding the village of Sandwith, with scenic qualities but these are not strongly related to the coast.

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.14 In terms of ***relative wildness the area meets some of the criteria***. It is a settled and farmed landscape with a network of minor roads. In the north-west these fields are open, rolling and elevated, exposing them to coastal winds and the influence of the sea. There are occasional narrow strips of woodland, creating pockets of shelter along with the rolling topography. In terms of relative tranquillity the area is generally quiet and peaceful, except when punctuated by the sounds of agricultural operations or traffic along the rural roads at Sandwith, and ***meets some of the tranquillity criteria***.
- 5.15 Overall this area can be described as being "***substantially undeveloped***".

Natural or man-made features

- 5.16 The area ***meets some of the natural heritage features criteria***; local geology is expressed in the red sandstone walls and buildings. There are small areas of woodland and hedgebanks which are likely to provide some wildlife habitat, although there are no large areas of semi-natural vegetation. The area ***meets some of the cultural heritage criteria***; there are no known/designated heritage assets but strip fields around Sandwith reflect ancient enclosures. And the whole area is contained within small to medium sized fields with hedgebanks reflecting traditional patterns.
- 5.17 Overall it is considered that the area contains some "***features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made***".



Pasture above Barrowmouth Common, looking north towards Whitehaven

Evaluation

The western part of the Sandwith Farmland can be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”, as it has a strong relationship with the sea. The remainder of the farmland, whilst having some scenic qualities, does not have a functional relationship with the coast.

It is recommended that the two westernmost fields along the edge of area 6 be included within the Heritage Coast. It is considered that field boundaries would form the most appropriate boundary to the Heritage Coast. North of these fields the boundary should follow the field boundary along the cliff edge, excluding the trig point at 129m AOD as there are no hard features to follow on the ground in this location. The fields adjacent to the Rhodia site should be excluded given their proximity to this degraded landscape.

7. Rhodia Site

Landscape context

- 5.18 The Rhodia site is a large area of waste ground, comprising areas of hardstanding, unmanaged semi-improved neutral grassland and bare ground with colonising vegetation. The site was formerly a chemical works, which was closed in 2005 and the buildings subsequently demolished. The Rhodia site is contained to the east by High Road, and overlooked by housing at Woodhouse. To the south west the area is contained by rising land at Barrowmouth and rolling farmland around Sandwith. To the south there is a Water Treatment Works and closed landfill site. The landform is largely flat, but with local undulations resulting from former buildings and demolition works. The Rhodia site is fenced off and inaccessible. There are views from the area; east across Whitehaven to the fells and mountains of the Lake District beyond; south to Barrowmouth and Sandwith; and west to the coast and open sea.



Rhodia site from Barrowmouth, looking east towards Woodhouse and the fells of the Lake District

Scenic quality

- 5.19 ***The area does not meet the scenic quality criteria***; it is a large scale, generally flat area of waste ground with colonising vegetation. The area has a neglected appearance, with some areas of hardstanding associated with the former industrial buildings and roadways. Some of these areas of hardstanding have been dug up and now form rubble piles in various vegetated states. The area ***does not meet the landscape quality criteria***, being neglected and in poor condition.
- 5.20 ***Overall the area cannot be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.***

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.21 ***The area does not meet the relative wildness criteria***; it is a former industrial site, and is contained by a road on its eastern side and overlooked by housing on the Whitehaven fringe. It is large scale and largely open, although not accessible to the public. ***The area does not meet the relative tranquillity criteria***; its grassland communities are likely to be of some value as wildlife habitats but there is no sense of it being a natural landscape, and detractors include hardstanding, rubble piles, fencing and rank grassland.

5.22 Overall this area cannot be described as being “*substantially undeveloped*”.

Natural or man-made features

- 5.23 In terms of ***natural heritage features the area does not meet the criteria***, as the landform has been modified by past industrial use, and vegetation cover is grassland of varying quality. The area ***does not meet the cultural heritage features criteria***, as there are no designated heritage assets and buildings on site have been removed. The Marchon Chemical Works were built in 1943 and became a leading producer of detergent powders before being demolished in 2007. The tall chimneys of the site dominated the Whitehaven skyline for around 50 years. It is an important site in the history of Whitehaven and locally significant in terms of its past role as a local employer.
- 5.24 **Overall the area does not contain “*features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made*”.**



Rhodia site from High Road, looking southeast towards farmland around Sandwith and mast on Hannah Moor

Evaluation

Overall the area cannot be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”; it is a degraded landscape with many incongruous features.

It is not recommended that area 7 is included in the Heritage Coast. There is a need to manage the boundary of this area where it joins areas 1 and 8 (which are proposed to be included in the Heritage Coast) so that it contributes to the Heritage Coast and enhances its setting in the future.

8. Kells Farmland

Landscape context

- 5.25 This is open, gently sloping agricultural land located between coastal cliffs to the west and the Whitehaven urban fringe at Kells and Woodhouse to the east. Most of the land is arable, although the area includes pasture / grassland to the north and to the east of the footpath which runs along the back of housing on West Row and Low Kells. Fields are large, with boundaries marked by post and wire fencing and relict hedge banks, some in decline. Fields are fringed by grassland, but there is no tree cover, and the landscape is open and exposed to coastal winds and offering long views seaward and along the coast. There is a hard surfaced footpath in a stone walled cutting, locally known as the Wagon way, which provides a vertical visual break between the arable fields and the residential areas and pasture to the east. A right of way runs along the coastal edge and will form part the England Coast Path. The character of the landscape is rural and it plays a role in forming the setting to the coastal cliffs. Open, expansive views are available across the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea, to Dumfries and Galloway to the northwest and distant views to the Isle of Man to the west. The sandstone cliffs at St Bees Head are a landmark feature in views to the south. Figure 9 shows the Kells Farmland in more detail.



Arable fields from footpath, looking south towards St Bees Head and distant views to the Isle of Man

Scenic quality

- 5.26 The area to the west of the Wagon way **fully meets the scenic quality criteria**, as it has a strong sense of place derived from its gentle, west facing slopes, coastal character and expansive open views out to sea. The landscape is notable for its lack of tree cover and openness. This simplicity and openness has intrinsic value and enhances the connection with the coastal cliffs and allows long views to the headland and out to sea creating a strong sense of place. The area also has strong experiential qualities and connection to the sea; winds blowing off the sea, the sound of waves crashing on the shore, and seabirds flitting between their nests in the cliffs and the fields where they come to feed. To the east of the Wagon way footpath the landscape has a more urban fringe character, and fields in the north have views to the back of houses on West Row. The area **partially meets the landscape quality criteria**; it is an intensively farmed coastal strip with a lack of diversity in its land cover, and modern housing is in proximity to the fields in the north and east. The land on the fringes of the arable fields is less intensively managed, and there are some

remnant hedgerows. There is an opportunity to enhance the quality of the landscape, e.g. through a change to less intensive management or restoration of field boundary hedgerows.

- 5.27 Overall it is considered that part of the area can be described as part of “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality” with an opportunity to enhance landscape quality.**

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.28 The area to the west of the footpath **meets some of the relative wildness criteria**; despite being partially overlooked by and with views to housing at Kells and Woodhouse there is a strong demarcation between urban and rural, and this sub area itself has a strong rural feel. A sense of remoteness can be experienced, particularly when walking on the informal track which will form part of the England Coast Path along the western boundary. This sense of remoteness is enhanced by the openness of the landscape; the lack of shelter exposes the area to strong coastal winds. Fields east of the footpath are overlooked by housing and have an urban fringe character. **Parts of the area, in particular the coastal edge, meet the relative tranquillity criteria.** Despite being overlooked and with views to housing a sense of tranquillity can be experienced, particularly west of the break in slope which runs north-south through the arable fields.
- 5.29 Overall this area can be described as “substantially undeveloped”, although recognising that there is development in close proximity.**

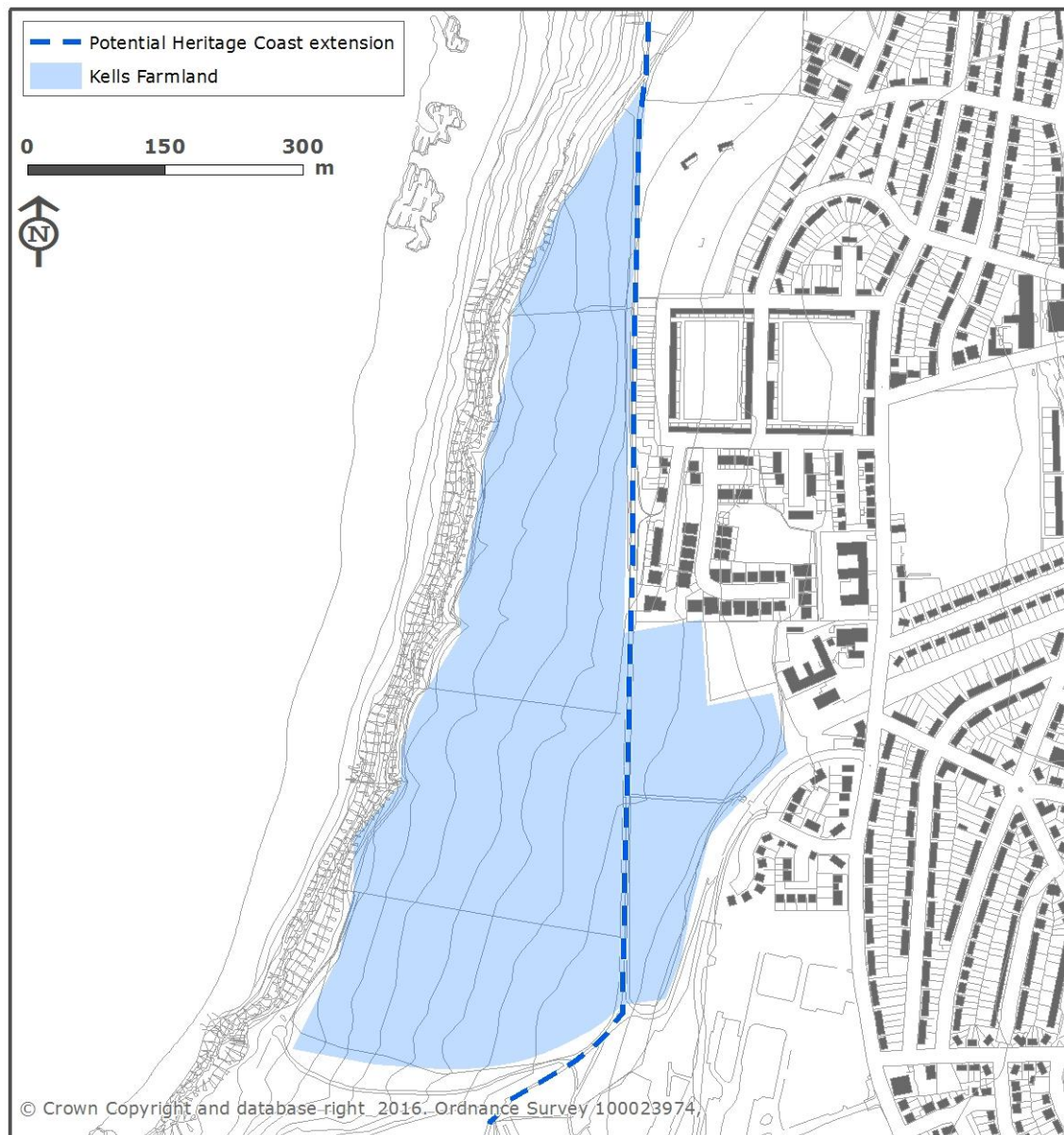
Natural or man-made features

- 5.30 The Kells Farmland area **meets some of the natural heritage criteria**, as although it is a farmed landscape, with cycles of ploughing, cultivation and harvesting, it is likely to support some bird life nesting in the cliffs to the west. There is the potential for ecological improvements e.g. through habitat restoration. The area **does not meet the cultural heritage criteria**, as there are no known heritage assets or associations which contribute to sense of place. The fields are contained by housing to the east, and the northern end of the derelict Rhodia site, and these urban influences detract from the rural and seascape views which are available looking south or west across the Kells Farmland.
- 5.31 Overall the area does not contain “features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made”.**



Arable fields from coastal footpath, looking east towards Kells, Whitehaven

Figure 9 – Kells Farmland Extents



Evaluation

A substantial part of the Kells Farmland can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”, particularly the arable fields on the west side of the Wagon way footpath which are connected to the sea, both visually and through experiential qualities. Fields to the east of the footpath have stronger urban fringe characteristics.

It is recommended that part of area 8 is included in the Heritage Coast. It is recommended that the fields west of the Wagon way footpath should be included, as they have a valuable coastal character linked to the cliffs. It is recommended that the boundary should follow the existing Wagon way footpath along the back of housing in Kells. This is a definite boundary, noting that there is no other equivalent feature on the ground to follow to the west closer to the cliffs. It is also undeniable that not including these fields would mean that some intrinsic, contiguous and vital parts of the coast would not be included in the extended Heritage Coast. This boundary would also allow the whole area of arable fields to be effectively managed for Heritage Coast objectives.

9. Solway Road Fields

Landscape context

- 5.32 An area of gently sloping grazing land, semi-improved grassland and scrub, located between coastal cliffs to the west and the Whitehaven urban fringe to the east. In the north and west there are two small fields grazed by ponies and horses. The remaining fields have been colonised by scrub. Fields are enclosed by post and wire fencing or traditional stone walls. A public footpath known as Ravenhill Track runs east to west between the fields. The northern boundary of the area is formed by a belt of shrub planting along a track which provides access to Haig Enterprise Park, and leads to a small area of waste ground. The western boundary is formed by a footpath which will form part of the England Coast Path. The landscape is rural in character, but overlooked by housing which reduces a sense of tranquillity. The land slopes gently towards the sea, and views are focused across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea with Dumfries and Galloway and the Isle of Man visible to the northwest and southwest, respectively. There are views to notable landmarks both the south, the sandstone cliffs at St Bees, and to the north, Haig buildings/pit head gear which create a sense of place.



Pony fields from Solway Road looking south

Scenic quality

- 5.33 The area **does not meet the scenic quality criteria**; the landscape is unified by its gentle west facing topography, expansive sea views and traditional stone wall field boundaries. The landscape is open, except for a few small trees in the southernmost field. The scenic qualities of the area are 'borrowed' from the cliffs and open sea a short distance to the west. It is more detached from the coast with a stronger urban influence compared to other areas. The area **does not meet the landscape quality criteria**; the grazed fields are well maintained however some of the fields are unmanaged and have been colonised by scrub. The waste ground at the end of Ravenhill Track has a neglected appearance. Overall the area has a strong urban fringe character.
- 5.34 **Overall the area cannot be described as "a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality".**

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.35 The area **does not meet the relative wildness criteria**. It is located on the fringes of Whitehaven, overlooked and with views to housing to the east and with a small business park to the north, although the latter is screened by a belt of mature shrubs. Local footpaths including Ravenhill Track and the coastal path are popular with walkers / dog walkers. The area of waste ground at the end of Ravenhill Track has a strong urban fringe character. The area is elevated above the coastal cliffs and exposed to sea winds, particularly in the west. Some shelter can be found in the lee of walls and the small windswept trees in the southernmost field. **Parts of the area meet the relative tranquillity criteria**.
- 5.36 Overall the area cannot be described as being “*substantially undeveloped*”.

Natural or man-made features

- 5.37 The area **meets some of the natural heritage features criteria**; some fields are grazed and some appear to be unmanaged and are being gradually colonised by scrub. This scrub may provide habitat for birds, mammals and reptiles, although there are no ecological designations. There are clearly opportunities to enhance ecological diversity. Traditional sandstone walls reflect local geology and quarrying. The area **does not meet the cultural heritage criteria**; there are no known heritage assets or cultural associations which contribute to a sense of place. The fields are flanked by a small, red brick business park to the north and housing to the east, which gives the landscape an urban fringe feel.
- 5.38 Overall it can be said that the area does not contain “*features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made*”.



Ravenhill Track looking west

Evaluation

The area cannot be described as “*a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality*”, as it has urban fringe characteristics and a small area of derelict land.

It is not recommended that area 9 is included in the Heritage Coast, although it is an important part of the Gateway Area. It is considered that the western boundary of area 9 would form a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast.

10. Haig Cliff Top Fields and Haig Pit

Landscape context

- 5.39 This is an area of open, gently sloping flower rich semi-improved grassland with areas of coastal heath and amenity grassland, located to the east of Haig Cliffs, and extending up to meet housing on Basket Road and High Road at the edge of Whitehaven. Overall it has a managed, urbanised feel set within a more open rural seascape. There is a floodlit rugby pitch adjacent to the road. A scrub filled gulley to the rear of houses on Harbour View and High Road forms the northern boundary. The former Haig Museum complex is located to the south, in the red brick former engine house of the Haig Colliery, which dates back to 1917. A small business park lies adjacent to the museum complex (closed in early 2016), and is enclosed by bunding and shrub planting. A footpath runs along the western edge of Haig Fields, and will form part of the England Coast Path. Other informal paths around and across the grassland are popular with walkers / dog walkers from nearby residential areas. Figure 10 shows the Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig Pit in more detail.
- 5.40 The Haig Cliff Top Fields and Haig Pit is an elevated landscape with open sea views and can be windswept, although is overlooked by housing, and has views to housing which reduces the sense of tranquillity. Expansive sea views are across the Irish Sea and Solway Firth, to the Isle of Man visible to the southwest and Dumfries and Galloway to the northwest. The distinctive cliffs of St Bees Head are visible to the south, and the harbour area glimpsed in views to the north. The Haig engine house and pithead gear are notable and striking landmarks in views towards this area.



Haig cliff top fields and Haig Pit looking north along the back of Basket Road

Scenic quality

- 5.41 The gently sloping grassland at Haig cliff top fields and the Haig is a functional but unexceptional urban fringe landscape, and **does not meet the scenic quality criteria**. The area 'borrows' some of its scenic quality from the expansive open seas to the west. The Haig buildings, in particular the engine house and pithead gear, are notable local landmarks, and are widely visible in views along the coast. The area **does not meet the landscape quality criteria**; despite being valuable ecological niche for many plants and animals. Landscape detractors include the car park at the former Haig Museum complex and the single storey, red brick business park which lies adjacent, although the latter is generally well screened by enclosing bunding and shrub planting, particularly on its north and eastern sides.

- 5.42 Overall Haig cliff top fields and the Haig cannot be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.**

Wildness and tranquillity

- 5.43 The area **does not meet the relative wildness criteria**, as it is located on the Whitehaven urban fringe, in close proximity to housing. This means it is well used for recreation, mainly informal (e.g. dog walking) although there is also a rugby pitch. There is no semi-natural coastal vegetation; the landscape is managed for recreation with large areas of semi-improved and amenity grassland and small areas of shrub planting to provide screening. Despite this the area is elevated, and can be exposed to winds off the open sea which along with the expansive sea views contributes an element of wildness/tranquillity. The area **does not meet the relative tranquillity criteria**.
- 5.44 Overall the area cannot be described as being “substantially undeveloped”.**

Natural or man-made features

- 5.45 The area **meets some of the natural heritage features criteria**. The landform is gently sloping, and has been modified by past use for mining operations, and later site restoration. Soils are typically thin and underlain by a thick layer of colliery waste. Vegetation cover is semi-improved flower rich and amenity grassland with some scrub, which supports a diverse range of plants and animals including breeding birds. Part of the area **fully meets the cultural heritage criteria**; the importance of the Haig building is highlighted by its designation as a Scheduled Monument⁴, and several of its structures, including the engine houses and pithead gear are also Listed Buildings. The Haig winding gear and Haig Museum complex are an important focus point in views along the coast and contribute to a strong sense of place. The Colliery dates back to 1917, with later additions and alterations, closing in 1987. Since 1997 the main building has served as a mining museum, which re opened in 2015 with a new visitor centre and car park recognising the significance of the mining heritage story locally. More recent residential development and the enclosing business park detract from the setting of the Colliery buildings.
- 5.46 Overall it can be said that the area contains some “features of special significance and interest, whether natural or man-made” and is particularly valued in relation to the Scheduled Monument and cultural and community associations with Whitehaven.**

⁴ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1263938>

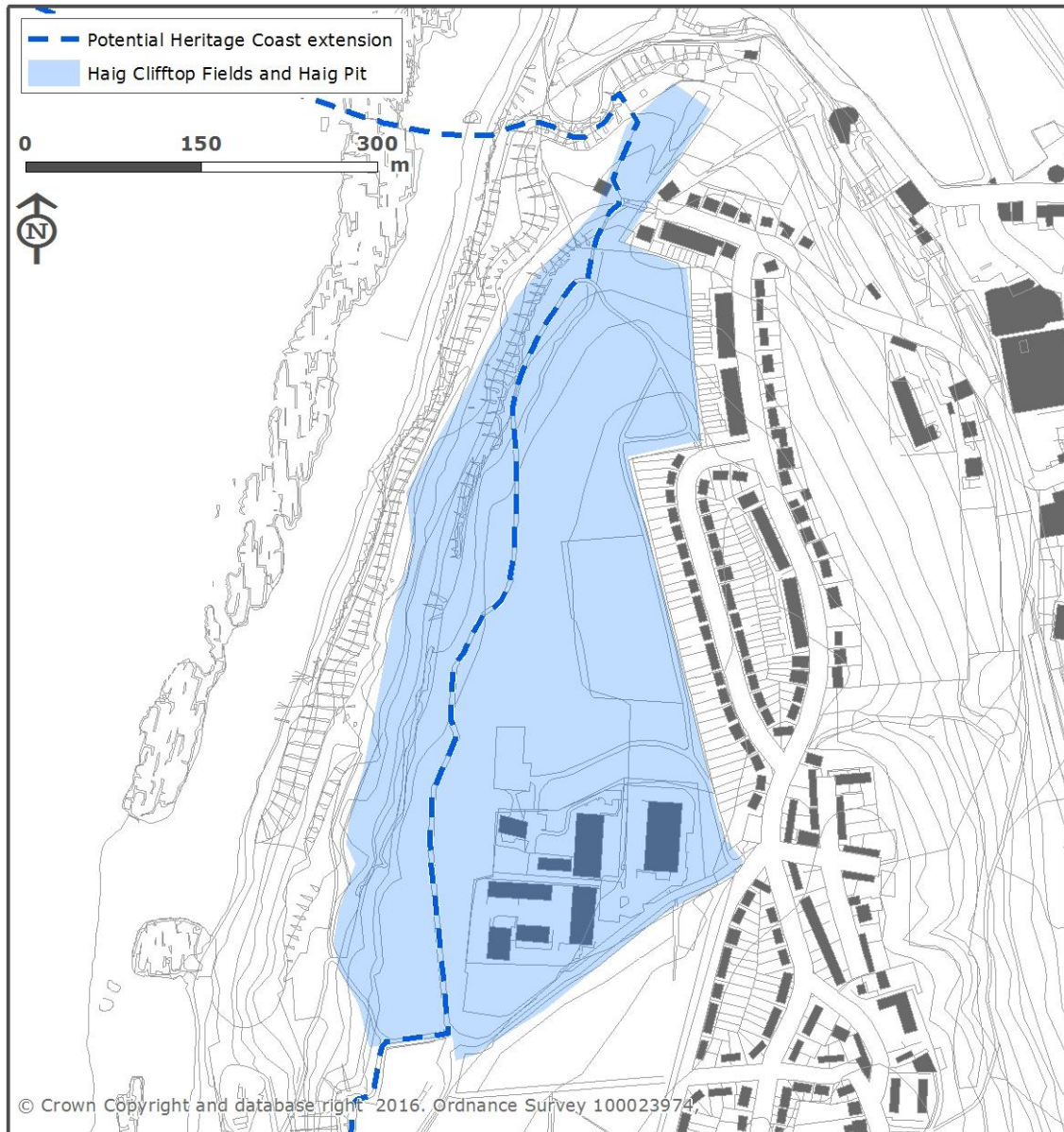


Species rich wildflower meadow in summer



The Haig Colliery buildings and headgear looking east from coastal path

Figure 10 – Haig Cliff Top Fields and Haig Pit Extents



Evaluation

Despite the presence of the Haig buildings, which are notable local landmarks, and expansive sea views, overall the area cannot be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”. It is located in proximity to the urban fringe and is partially developed.

The majority of the area should not be included in the Heritage Coast, although it is a Key Gateway point. It is considered that the hard surfaced footpath (a public right of way) which runs parallel to the coastal strip would form a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast, as the fenceline to its west is temporary in nature. This would warrant the inclusion of part of area 10, on the west side of the footpath. The footpath will form part of the England Coast Path and meets the *Draft Guidance* additional boundary criteria “land with potential to support recreation and access.”

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 This chapter sets out the conclusions and recommendations of the analysis, covering the recommended boundary and rationale for the proposed heritage coast extension and including a proposed draft planning policy. The chapter concludes with a short summary of the potential socio-economic benefits that could flow from a greater area of defined heritage coast extending from St Bees to Whitehaven.

Evaluation Summary and Boundary Recommendations

- 6.2 **Table 3** below summarises the results of the evaluation described in **Section 5**. The final column describes the preferred boundary, which should follow recognisable features on the ground where possible. The preferred boundary is shown in Figure 11. In addition to areas which are recommended for inclusion within the extended Heritage Coast, the recommendations also cover a proposed Gateway area and key Gateway points, for areas (5 and 10) which meet many but not all the relevant Heritage Coast criteria. The management of the entire area has to potential to add to the quality, character and setting of the Heritage Coast. Management of these areas in line with Heritage Coast objectives will also improve and encourage access into the Heritage Coast areas, especially given the proximity of the Gateway to residential areas.

Table 3 Evaluation summary table

Local Landscape Areas for Evaluation	Factors						Evaluation and boundary recommendations
	Scenic Quality		Wildness and Tranquillity		Natural and man-made		
	Scenic Quality	Landscape Quality	Wildness	Tranquillity	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	
1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry							<p>Overall the area can clearly be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”, despite some minor incongruous elements such as Birkhams Quarry and a reclaimed washings tip adjacent to the Rhodia site.</p> <p>It is recommended that the majority of area 1 should be included within the Heritage Coast, with the exception of the degraded land adjacent to area 7 (centred on approx. GR</p>

Local Landscape	Factors						
							296322 515987). Here, the boundary should follow the hard surfaced footpath (a public right of way) which runs on the seaward side of the Rhodia fence line, not the fence line itself. The area between the footpath and fenceline is not currently suitable for inclusion although would benefit from habitat restoration / enhancement. Birkhams Quarry is already partly included within the existing Heritage Coast and there is no reason why this small, occasionally active, quarry should be excluded from the extended area.
2. Kells Cliffs							<p>Overall the area can clearly be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”, as it is a natural landscape of sandstone cliffs with a strong sense of place.</p> <p>There are no incongruous features of note, and it is recommended that all of area 2 be included within the Heritage Coast.</p>
3. Saltom Pit							<p>Overall the Saltom Pit area can be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.</p> <p>It is recommended that all of area 3 be included within the Heritage Coast.</p>
4. Haig Cliffs							<p>Overall the Haig Cliffs area can clearly be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.</p> <p>It is recommended that all of area 4 be included within the Heritage Coast.</p>
5. Whitehaven Harbour							<p>Overall the area cannot be described as “a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality”.</p> <p>It is not recommended that area 5 be included within the Heritage Coast, although it is a Key</p>

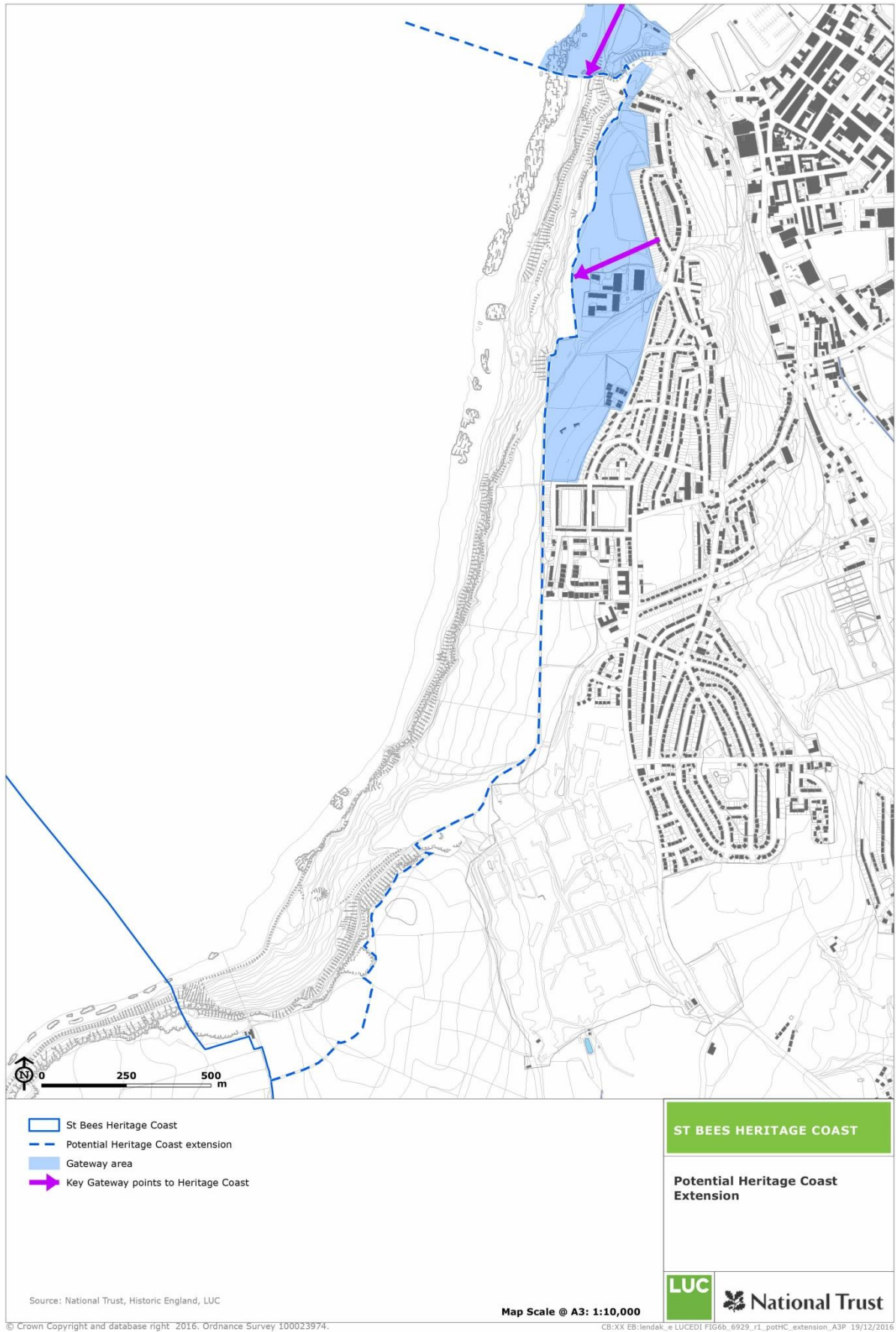
Local Landscape	Factors						
							Gateway point to the scenic coast. It is considered that the headland at Tom Hurd Rock forms a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast.
6. Sandwith Farmland							<p>The western part of the Sandwith Farmland can be described as “<i>a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality</i>”, as it has a strong relationship with the sea. The remainder of the farmland, whilst having some scenic qualities, does not have a functional relationship with the coast.</p> <p>It is recommended that the two westernmost fields along the edge of area 6 be included within the Heritage Coast. It is considered that field boundaries would form the most appropriate boundary to the Heritage Coast. North of these fields the boundary should follow the field boundary along the cliff edge, excluding the trig point at 129m AOD as there are no hard features to follow on the ground in this location. The fields adjacent to the Rhodia site should be excluded given their proximity to this degraded landscape.</p>
7. Rhodia Site							<p>Overall the area cannot be described as “<i>a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality</i>”; it is a degraded landscape with many incongruous features.</p> <p>It is not recommended that area 7 is included in the Heritage Coast. There is a need to manage the boundary of this area where it joins areas 1 and 8 (which are proposed to be included in the Heritage Coast) so that it contributes to the Heritage Coast and enhances its setting in the future.</p>

Local Landscape	Factors						
8. Kells Farmland							<p>Substantial parts of the Kells Farmland can be described as “<i>a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality</i>”, particularly the arable fields on the west side of the wagon way footpath, which are an important part of the coastal landscape. Fields to the east of the footpath have stronger urban fringe characteristics.</p> <p>It is recommended that part of area 8 is included in the Heritage Coast. It is recommended that the fields west of the wagon way footpath should be included, as they have a valuable coastal character linked to the cliffs. It is recommended that the boundary should follow the existing wagon way footpath along the back of housing in Kells. This is a definite boundary, noting that there is no other equivalent feature on the ground to follow to the west closer to the cliffs. It is also undeniable that not including these fields would mean that some intrinsic, contiguous and vital parts of the coast would not be included in the extended Heritage Coast. This boundary would also allow the whole area of arable fields to be effectively managed for heritage coast objectives.</p>
9. Solway Road Fields							<p>The area cannot be described as “<i>a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality</i>”, as it has urban fringe characteristics and a small area of derelict land.</p> <p>It is not recommended that area 9 is included in the Heritage Coast, although it is an important part of the Gateway Area. It is considered that the western boundary of area 9 would form a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast.</p>

Local Landscape	Factors						
10. Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig Pit							<p>Despite the presence of the Haig buildings, which are notable local landmarks, and expansive sea views, overall the area cannot be described as <i>"a coastline of exceptionally fine scenic quality"</i>.</p> <p>The majority of the area should not be included in the Heritage Coast, although it is a Key Gateway point. It is considered that the hard surfaced footpath (a public right of way) which runs parallel to the coastal strip would form a suitable boundary for the Heritage Coast, as the fenceline to its west is temporary in nature. This would warrant the inclusion of part of area 10, on the west side of the footpath. The footpath will form part of the England Coast Path and meets the Draft Guidance additional boundary criteria <i>"land with potential to support recreation and access."</i></p>

	Area meets criteria
	Area meets some criteria / part of area meets all criteria
	Area does not meet criteria

Figure 11 – Suggested Boundary for Heritage Coast Extension



Heritage Coast Name

- 6.3 In the light of recommendations to change the boundary of the Heritage Coast, we would also recommend a change of name to St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast to better reflect the extended area.

Proposed Planning Policy

- 6.4 It is intended that the extended Heritage Coast area will be defined through the Copeland Borough Council Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). That DPD is currently in preparation with the next consultation stage due in early 2017 when it is anticipated that, in response to representations made to the first consultation, a proposal will be included to extend the defined Heritage Coast area. A proposed draft planning policy is recommended for inclusion in the DPD in respect of the existing and proposed Heritage Coast as set out below.

Draft Heritage Coast Policy

Policy X – Heritage Coast

- 1. The Council will work to ensure the conservation and encourage the enhancement of St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast, as proposed to be extended, and its special qualities. In order to retain the undeveloped nature of the Heritage Coast and its outstanding scenic qualities, development within this area will only be permitted where:**
 - A. It is required for the conservation of the Heritage Coast; or**
 - B. It would enhance opportunities for visitors to enjoy, understand and appreciate the Heritage Coast; or**
 - C. It can be demonstrated that benefits to the health, wellbeing and safety of the public outweigh any harm to the Heritage Coast.**
- 2. All proposals will be required to demonstrate how they will:**
 - A. Conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape character and natural beauty of the coastline, including views to and from the Heritage Coast;**
 - B. Conserve and enhance biodiversity, particularly with regards to St Bees Head SSSI;**
 - C. Conserve and enhance heritage features;**
 - D. Maximise opportunities for enjoyment of the Heritage Coast, including opportunities for recreation and education; and**
 - E. Maintain and enhance the environmental health of inshore waters.**

Part 2 of this policy also applies to the area identified on the Proposals Map as Undeveloped Coast

- 3. The St Bees Heritage Coast Extension Review (December 2016) identified a Gateway Area, which does not meet the criteria for Heritage Coast status but nonetheless is important to its setting and for recreation and access, especially *via* The Key Gateway points. The Council will support proposals that enable access to and understanding of the Heritage Coast in these areas, providing they meet the criteria set out in part 2 of this policy.**

Explanatory text

Heritage Coasts were established to protect the finest stretches of undeveloped coast in England. The Council will ensure that St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast remains undeveloped, by only allowing development specified in this policy and requiring relevant development proposals to meet the criteria in this policy.

Heritage Coasts were established to:

- conserve, protect and enhance:
 - the natural beauty of the coastline
 - their terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna
 - their heritage features;
- encourage and help the public to enjoy, understand and appreciate these areas;
- maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting Heritage Coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures; and
- take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts.

The Council will support these aims within St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast.

As well as being of great natural beauty the Heritage Coast is very important for nature conservation and heritage, and will contain the route of part of the England Coast Path, and starting/ending point for coast to coast trails. A management plan is required that protects and enhances this outstanding landscape, with its rich natural and cultural resources, whilst encouraging sustainable access and recreation by visitors and residents. The Council will support the existing Colourful Coast Partnership Project to develop an integrated Management Plan for the entire area of Heritage Coast, in order to conserve and enhance its landscape, biodiversity, heritage and recreational value. The Council will work with partners to conserve the coast, including supporting the long-term aims of the Shoreline Management Plan by allowing a naturally evolving shoreline, and supporting the conservation and recording of natural and heritage features potentially subject to coastal erosion.

Socio Economic Benefits of an Extended Heritage Coast

- 6.5 The proposed extension of the St Bees Heritage Coast northwards to Whitehaven offers the opportunity for integrated management and branding of the entire outstanding sandstone coastline between the town and St Bees to the south.
- 6.6 This has potential to bring in a range of socio economic benefits, including:
- An enhanced profile of the area through 'Heritage Coast branding' bringing together and promoting the existing tourism/recreation 'offer' with potential new opportunities and associated increased number of visitors, visitor spending and jobs, especially in and around Whitehaven and St Bees;
 - By extending the Heritage Coast northwards, a rationale to enhance and promote the role of Whitehaven as a local centre for accommodation, businesses and services for tourism and recreation (including health benefits) in relation to the proposed England Coast Path and coast to coast trails (Coast to Coast footpath route and C2C cycle route) and related attractions such as Whitehaven harbour area;
 - Opportunities for cohesive management on a landscape scale approach as basis to attract external funding through schemes such as Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and agri-environment funding.
- 6.7 Other indirect benefits of the extended Heritage Coast could potentially include significant long term socio-economic benefits to the area meeting other targets for Copeland Borough Council, for example the role of green infrastructure in encouraging programmes to increase healthy outdoor activity and associated (physical and mental) health and well-being benefits.
- 6.8 It is recommended that opportunities for the extended Heritage Coast to deliver a wider range of benefits and (ecosystem) services meeting environmental, social and economic objectives is explored further through the integrated Heritage Coast Management Plan.
- 6.9 Figure 12 below shows the extent of existing Heritage Coasts in England, along with the proposed extension area.

Figure 12 – Existing Heritage Coasts in England



© Crown Copyright and database right 2016. Ordnance Survey 100023974, ESRI, HERE, Intermap, GEBCO, Ordnance Survey, ©OSM, etc

CB:EL EB:lendak_e LUCEDI FIG11_6929_r4_EnglandHC_A4P 15/11/2016

Appendix 1

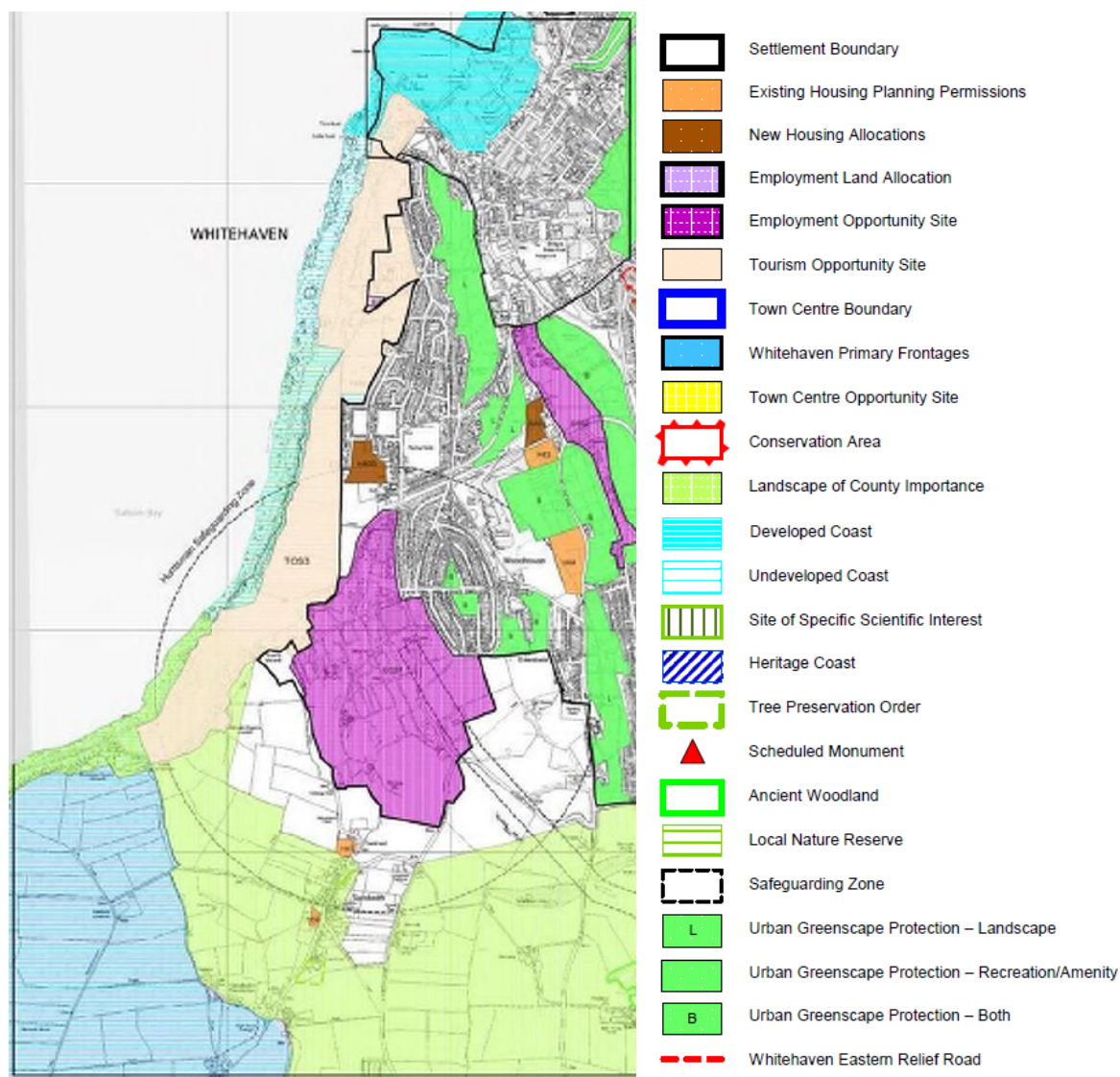
Local Planning Policy

Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028

Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD

The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 5 December 2013)⁵ sets out the vision for the Borough and the policies to be considered for development proposals. There are 6 'locality areas' within the Borough; St Bees Head is within the West Copeland locality; and the area north of the Heritage Coast is within the Whitehaven locality. An extract from the Local Plan Proposals Map⁶ is shown in Figure A1 below; this identifies saved allocations brought forward from the Copeland Local Plan 2006.

Figure A1: Local Plan Proposals Map



Whitehaven Locality

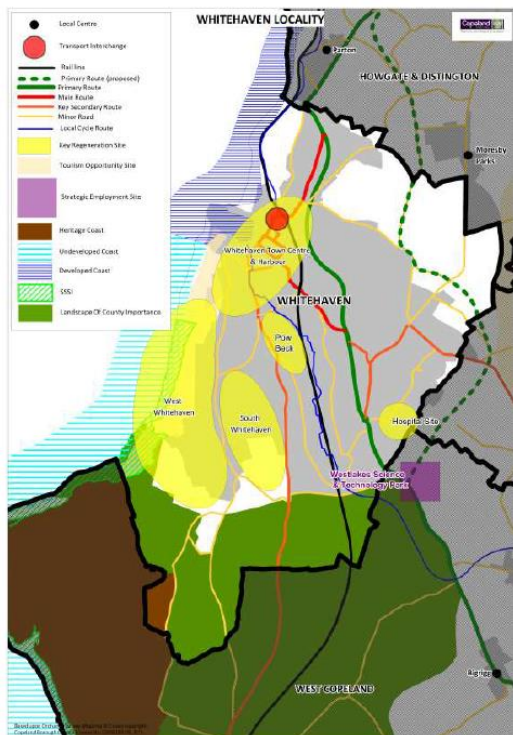
The 'spatial portrait' for the Whitehaven locality (see Figure A2 below) identifies a 'key regeneration site' along the coast south of Whitehaven ('West Whitehaven'), as well as 'undeveloped coast' (see *Policy ENV2 Coastal Management*) and a 'tourism opportunity site' (see *Policy ER10 – Renaissance through Tourism*). A 'landscape of county importance' is identified on the spatial portrait; *Policy ENV5 Protecting and Enhancing the Borough's Landscapes* places more emphasis on landscape character assessment than on this designation which was identified in the

⁵ Available at: <http://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/core-strategy-and-development-management-policies-0>

⁶ Available at: <http://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/proposals-map-2013-28-and-saved-policies>

previous Local Plan and is referred to in the past tense. The policy wording highlights Historic Landscape Characterisation and the Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment Guidance and Toolkit 2011. The Council still has aspirations to provide a more detailed assessment which will replace the Landscape of County Importance designation in time for the next proposals map.

Figure A2: Spatial Portrait for Whitehaven Locality



West Whitehaven is identified as a 'strategic regeneration priority' area (see *Policy ST3 Strategic Regeneration Priorities*). It is described (under the heading 'South Whitehaven') as follows:

"This area comprises the Woodhouse, Greenbank and Kells Housing Market Renewal Area, which has already seen some regeneration activity in terms of estate improvements, demolitions and new planning consents and development on brownfield sites, and the Coastal Fringe area between the St Bees Head approaches and South Harbour. The Coastal Fringe has also benefitted from regeneration projects but further remediation is required to deal with contamination from previous chemical/coaling activities at the Marchon site and to make areas safe for new development and the provision of public open space.

*"Housing market renewal will continue to be delivered in partnership with the Home Housing Group, which is the principal Registered Provider in this area - and the private sector. There is a need to rebalance the local housing market through the development of a mix of tenures and housing types to effect the transformation of a whole neighbourhood."*⁷

The plan also notes that brownfield and greenfield land south of Woodhouse Estate "could provide further opportunity for new housing combined with new neighbourhood facilities such as open space and the improvement of the wider coastal fringe, and retail and service provision" (page 90).

The 'tourism opportunity site' identified on the plan is identified as the area extending from Whitehaven Harbour to St Bees. Reference is made to the ongoing Colourful Coast Project and the existing Heritage Coast:

"The approach will be to leave the seaward side open and to protect the views from the Heritage Coast itself, to create new areas of parkland, and to allow some limited redevelopment on the east side, beginning with the area occupied by former offices and labs. Appropriate uses include

⁷ Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028. Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 5 December 2013). Page 90.

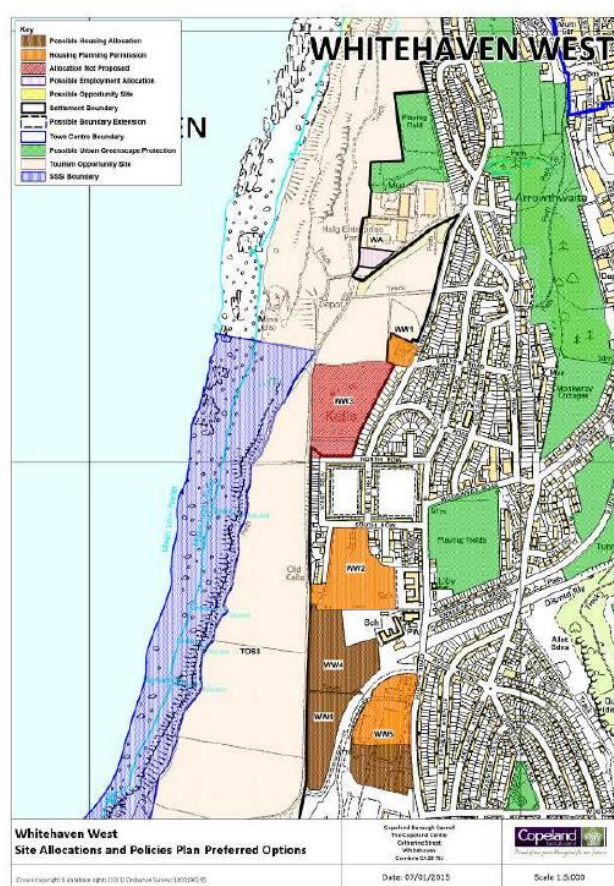
those associated with tourism such as visitor interpretation facilities, accommodation and conference space, and a small, high quality business park for offices and craft workshops.

"There is a need to coordinate tourism, open space, business development and housing market renewal in a total regeneration package for the whole of West Whitehaven and it is proposed that a development brief will be prepared to guide restoration and new development across the area" (page 91).

Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options

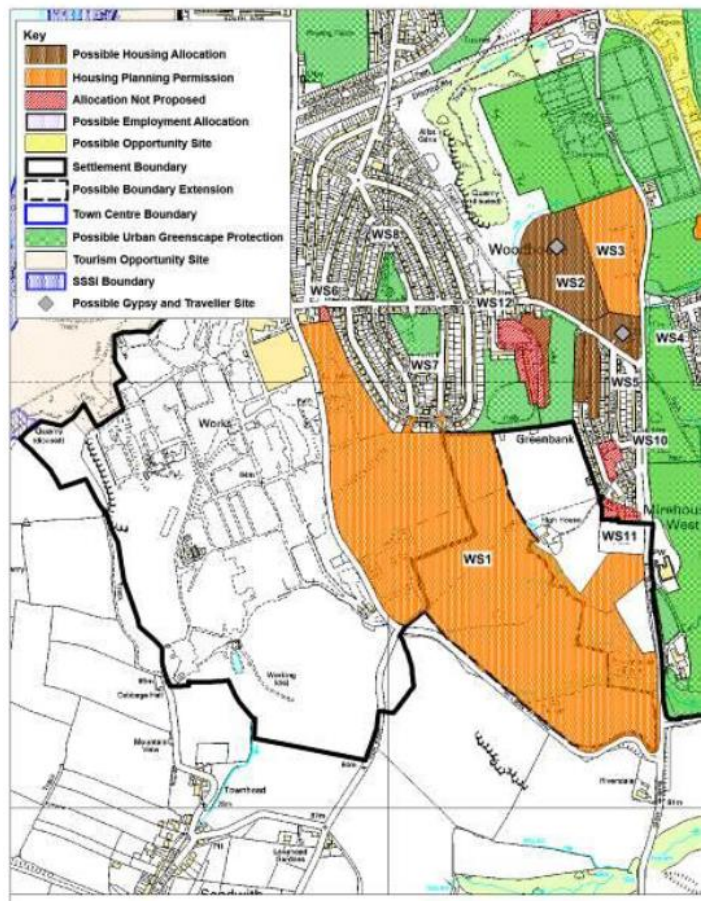
The Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options document was published for consultation in early 2015⁸. A stage two consultation will take place from early 2017 for eight weeks. This Report of the defined area of St Bees Heritage Coast and the case to extend northwards is the evidence base which will support the inclusion of the extension within the Copeland Local Plan. Copeland Borough Council will include this in the stage two Site Allocations and Policies Plan public consultation process providing the community and other stakeholders with the opportunity to put forward their comments. Figures A3 and A4 show the relevant map extracts from the consultation document.

Figure A3: Extract from the Draft Site Allocations DPD – Whitehaven West



⁸ Available at: <http://www.copeland.gov.uk/content/site-allocations-and-policies-plan>

Figure A4: Extract from the Draft Site Allocations DPD –Whitehaven South



West Whitehaven Supplementary Planning Document

Work commenced in 2012 on the West Whitehaven Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to “guide the protection, enhancement and partial development of an extensive and significant area of coastal landscape between the built up area of Whitehaven and St Bees Head”. Following initial consultation on draft documents the Council has decided not to take the document forward during the next two years (Copeland Local Development Scheme, September 2016). The extent of the draft SPD area is shown on Figure A5 below.

Figure A5: West Whitehaven SPD area



South Whitehaven Supplementary Planning Document

The South Whitehaven SPD⁹ (adopted March 2013) provides “the planning and design framework for a proposed new development of around 600 houses” within the area shown on Figure A6 below, opposite the Rhodia site on the east side of High Road.

Figure A6: South Whitehaven Plan area



Plan 1 - Aerial photograph highlighting South Whitehaven Plan area boundary

Whitehaven Settlement Boundary and Undeveloped Coast

Following objections to the 1st and 2nd deposit versions of the Copeland Local Plan 2001 – 2016 (adopted in 2006), the Whitehaven settlement boundary was drawn back from the coast, and the area between the settlement boundary and coast was identified as ‘undeveloped coast’. The area to the north of the Haig Museum complex was designated as ‘open space’; at the Inquiry into the Local Plan the Inspector noted that this area merited protection, but as it related closely to the built up area it should remain within the settlement boundary of Whitehaven.¹⁰

⁹ Available at: <http://www.copeland.gov.uk/attachments/south-whitehaven-spd>

¹⁰ Inspector’s Report on Objections to the 1st and 2nd Deposit Versions of the Copeland Borough Council Local Plan 2001 – 2016. Section 6.30, pages 119-121.

Appendix 2

Evaluation criteria

1. Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry

Evaluation framework for Barrowmouth and Birkhams Quarry

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The area has a recognisable sense of place based on its elevated landform, coastal vegetation and sense of wildness/remoteness (LCA).	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
The area comprises steep, vertical sandstone cliffs of up to 90m in height forming a striking landform – rare on the north west coast. There is an undulating coastal heath at the base of the cliffs, with a shoreline of boulders. The coastal section at Barrowmouth is the best exposure of late Permian marine strata in Cumbria (SSSI citation). The landform has been modified by quarrying at Birkhams Quarry. Barrowmouth Beach is a Geological Conservation Review Site.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal associated land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The sandstone cliffs support a diverse flora in its crevices and ledges (SSSI citation). The undulating coastal heath extending down from the cliffs to the shore is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast (SSSI citation), and is predominantly composed of bracken and scrub, fringed by maritime heath, maritime grass heath and ephemeral / short perennial vegetation (NT land use plan).	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The coastline is open and exposed, with the sound of the wind and waves crashing on the foreshore, and seabirds nesting in the cliffs. There are extensive views west to the open sea, across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to Dumfries and Galloway and the Isle of Man, and south to St Bees Head.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is generally intact, although the heath is being invaded by scrub, and bracken, with some regenerating woodland. The intermittently active small scale quarry at Birkhams intrudes on the intactness of this coastal landscape.	

Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
The landscape is generally intact and its habitats are assessed as being in favourable condition (SSSI citation). Degraded features include Birkhams quarry in the south and a reclaimed zone which is the site of a former washings tip, adjacent to the Rhodia site. Restoration conditions are in place for the quarry. There is some invasion of bracken and scrub into the heath vegetation.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Birkhams Quarry is an incongruous feature but is a small scale operation worked on an occasional basis.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Strong sense of remoteness pervades. The quarry is accessible via a minor road, otherwise access is on foot. The majority of the area is open access land (Countryside and Rights of Way Act, Section 15 Land) and the England Coast Path will run along the cliff top.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
There are few buildings in proximity except the quarry bungalows at the cliff top. At the northern end of the area, in proximity to the Rhodia site the urban fringe is more obvious.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Barrowmouth is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast, and is part of the St Bees Head SSSI noted for its "natural cliff-top grassland and heath" (SSSI citation).	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
The coast is open and exposed to wind and waves. The expansive open sea to the west has a strong influence on landscape character.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
A sense of enclosure and remoteness from human influence can be experienced from Barrowmouth and the shoreline, with shelter provided by the rising landform to the east, and the undulating heath. Access to	

the base of the cliffs is provided from Barrowmouth.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
Human intervention is notable at the quarry, although operations are small in scale and seasonal. Barrowmouth is the site of former Gypsum and Alabaster Works. Working ceased in 1908 and the area has now largely regenerated and appears as a natural landscape, with hints of past activity provided by the incline and ruined buildings.	
Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
Despite the presence of former mineral workings, Barrowmouth Common is a natural landscape with elemental qualities such as the sounds of the waves crashing on the foreshore, and birds nesting in the cliffs. The area is quiet and peaceful.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
Informal footpaths cross Barrowmouth Common and are popular with walkers. In proximity to the Rhodia site, fencing and waste ground detract from the sense of naturalness experienced elsewhere. Noise associated with periodic blasting and HGV movements at Birkhams Quarry are occasional detractors from tranquillity.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The cliffs fall within St Bees Head SSSI. The SSSI citation notes that in Saltom Bay the foreshore and adjacent areas provide the best exposure of the Permian rock sequence and marine strata in Cumbria and also the best available exposure of the Whitehaven Sandstone formation. The coastal section at Barrowmouth is the best exposure of late Permian marine strata in Cumbria (SSSI citation). Barrowmouth Beach is a Geological Conservation Review Site.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Vertical cliffs of up to 90m in height support the undulating coastal heath at Barrowmouth Common. There are two Geological Conservation Review Sites (GCRS); Saltom Bay (3015) and Barrowmouth Beach (1521), which comprises a rugged marine rock platform up to about 25m wide backed by a near-vertical sea-cliff a few metres high.	

Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
Barrowmouth is one of the largest expanses of coastal heath on the Cumbrian coast, contributing to the areas' distinctive sense of place. The biological interest of the St Bees Head SSSI " <i>is represented in a number of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform</i> " (SSSI citation). A Marine Conservation Zone covers all of this coastline.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
The cliffs provide a habitat for "over 2,000 pairs of guillemots along with lesser numbers of fulmar, kittiwake, razorbill, cormorant, puffin, shag and herring gull. The cliffs are, in addition, the only breeding site on the entire coast of England for black guillemots." (SSSI citation)	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality	
Barrowmouth gypsum and alabaster mine is a Scheduled Monument, located at the base of the cliffs. There are historic trackways to the quarries on the cliff top.	
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape	
Barrowmouth gypsum and alabaster mine at Saltom Bay is a Scheduled Monument. The monument includes the remains of buildings, levels, spoil heaps, enclosures and an inclined plane, and is now overgrown with vegetation. https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1021106	
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape	
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.	
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the shoreline as unenclosed coast, of sub-type sand/shingle along the shoreline and cliff/crag extending around Barrowmouth Common. The quarry bungalows are classified as a discrete habitation with a small ancient enclosure immediately to the west.	
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time	
Birkhams Quarry has been quarried since the 18 th C. Several other disused quarries are located along the cliff top. The former Barrowmouth gypsum and alabaster mine has been overgrown with vegetation.	
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices	
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty	

Barrowmouth Common is mainly coastal heath, subject to some scrub invasion.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
There is a strong tradition of quarrying at Barrowmouth, and sandstone has been quarried from Birkhams Quarry since the 18 th C. The stone has been used locally (eg Carlisle Castle and Cathedral), and as far afield as Canada, the US and Hong Kong. The first reference to mining of gypsum and alabaster at Barrowmouth dates back to 1794, although the exact date when mining began is unknown. Alabaster was used for making moulds at Whitehaven Pottery Works and gypsum was processed nearby and some turned into wallboards.

2. Kells Cliffs

Evaluation framework for Kells Cliffs

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The character of the area is unified by its rugged colourful sandstone cliffs, coastal heath vegetation and strong association with the sea.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
A narrow coastal strip with sheer rugged cliffs up to 50m in height forming a striking landform – rare on the north west coast. The cliffs are rough in texture, with a boulder beach forming the foreshore.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The vertical sandstone cliffs support a variety of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform. Striking red colour of cliff contrasts with the sea.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The coastline is exposed and windswept, with the sound of waves crashing on the foreshore, and seabirds nesting in the cliffs. There are extensive views west to the open sea, across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to Dumfries and Galloway and the Isle of Man, and south to St Bees Head.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is very natural and generally intact except for some natural slippage. The cliff tops are colonised by a mosaic of characteristic coastal heath vegetation.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
Generally in good condition with some natural erosion of the cliff face and with encroachment of bramble and bracken on the coastal heath.	

Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
No incongruous features noted.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Natural coastal cliff perceived as remote from transport routes and habitation, despite relative proximity to Whitehaven.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
Narrow coastal strip with few built features except some subtle signposting/waymarking along the informal footpath which will form part of the England Coast Path.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Sloping cliffs and cliff top partially colonised by grassland and coastal heath.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
The cliffs are open and exposed to the sea to the west.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
A sense of enclosure and remoteness from human influence may be experienced from the shoreline, although this is generally inaccessible.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
Largely apparent absence of intervention creating a very natural landscape apart from some vegetation management along the informal coastal footpath.	
Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>

Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
Birdsong can be heard from birds nesting in the cliffs. The open sea dominates views, and can be heard crashing on the shore below the cliffs.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
The coastal footpath is popular with walkers, including dog walkers from nearby residential areas. There are some views to residential development on the coastal edge.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The cliffs fall within St Bees Head SSSI. The SSSI citation notes that in Saltom Bay the foreshore and adjacent areas provide the best exposure of the Permian rock sequence and marine strata in Cumbria and also the best available exposure of the Whitehaven Sandstone formation.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Steep sandstone cliffs of approximately 50m in height. There is a Geological Conservation Review Site along the cliffs (2250).	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
As noted in the SSSI citation the biological interest of the St Bees Head SSSI is represented in a number of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
As noted in the SSSI citation the cliffs provide a habitat for over 2,000 pairs of guillemots along with lesser numbers of fulmar, kittiwake, razorbill, cormorant, puffin, shag and herring gull. The cliffs are, in addition, the only breeding site on the entire coast of England for black guillemots.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	

Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality
There are no known heritage assets or cultural associations.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the area as unenclosed coast, of sub-type sand/shingle backed by cliff/crag.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Natural coastal strip.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
None noted.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
None noted.

3. Saltom Pit

Evaluation framework for Saltom Pit

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The area has a strong and recognisable sense of place owing to its rugged sandstone cliffs, juxtaposed with the remnants of mining heritage.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
Rugged sandstone cliffs of up to 50m in height forming a striking landform – rare on the north west coast.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The sandstone cliffs support a variety of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform. The colourful red cliffs contrast strongly with the sea.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The cliff top is exposed and windswept, with the sound of waves crashing on the foreshore, and seabirds nesting in the cliffs. There are extensive views west to the open sea, across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to Dumfries and Galloway and the Isle of Man, and south to St Bees Head. Down at Saltom Pit a sense of shelter is provided by the cliffs to the east.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The coastal strip has been modified by past mineral workings although appears visually intact. There is a combination of natural and man-made features.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
Generally in good condition, with some natural land slippage of the cliff face. Parts of the bay are currently fenced off to prevent public access.	

Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Fencing and warning signs to deter people from accessing the bay are incongruous features, although temporary in nature.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Natural coastal strip perceived as remote from transport routes and habitation, despite relative proximity to Whitehaven. An area of hardstanding with piles of rubble in adjacent area 9 hints at proximity of urban edge.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
Narrow coastal strip, modified by past use as an under-sea mine. The pit building has a dominant presence in the landscape and is visible from the cliffs above. From the cliff top the nearby Haig Museum complex and pit head is a focal point in views.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Coastal cliffs partially colonised by grassland and coastal heath.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
The coast is open and exposed to the sea to the west, particularly from the cliff tops.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
A sense of enclosure is provided by the cliffs from within the bay, which can offer feelings of isolation.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
The pit building appears as a historic ruin.	

Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
The sound of birdsong, wind and waves can be experienced. On calm days there can be a sense of peace and quiet, particularly from the sheltered area at the base of the cliffs. The open sea dominates views west.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
The coastal footpath is popular with walkers, including dog walkers from nearby residential areas. From the cliff top urban land uses have an influence on tranquillity. These include housing and a small scale business park.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
Red-brown sandstone evident in the cliff faces.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Sandstone cliffs form a striking visual feature.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation for the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that cliff face vegetation is variable, and consists of a mosaic of maritime grassland, heath, bracken and slumped bare ground.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation for the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that Kestrels may breed on the cliffs.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	

<p>Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</p>
<p>Saltom coal pit is a Scheduled Monument. The monument includes the upstanding and buried remains of Saltom Pit, the first undersea coal mine in England. The pit is located on a rock platform between Saltom Bay cliffs and the shore, and includes the roofless remains of a winding engine house and chimney. The Pit nestling at the base of the cliff has a strong presence in the landscape creating a distinctive and unique sense of place.</p>
<p>Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape</p>
<p>Saltom Pit is an outstanding historic/cultural site of national significance forming one of the best known surviving examples of a predominantly 18th century nucleated colliery layout. The pit building has a strong visual presence when it comes into view from the cliff top above.</p>
<p>Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape</p>
<p>Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.</p>
<p>Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the area as unenclosed coast, of sub-type sand/shingle backed by cliff/crag. The pit buildings and former trackway are identified as extraction, sub-type mining.</p>
<p>Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time</p>
<p>The pit buildings are located at the base of the cliffs, and form a harmonious relationship with the natural landform and vegetation (albeit subject to coastal erosion).</p>
<p>Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices</p>
<p>Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty</p>
<p>None noted.</p>
<p>Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events</p>
<p>Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.</p>
<p>Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music</p>
<p>Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs</p>
<p>An exploratory bore was sunk at Saltom by Carlisle Spedding. Work began on the pit in 1729. It was abandoned in 1848. https://haigpit.wordpress.com/saltom-pit/</p> <p>The pit is evocative of previous lives and history, and has a strong resonance with local people.</p>

4. Haig Cliffs

Evaluation framework for Haig Cliffs

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
This narrow coastal strip is unified by its rugged sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height, coastal heath vegetation and its relationship with the open sea.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
Rugged sandstone cliffs up to 50m in height, which although lower than those to the south are still a striking feature.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The sandstone cliffs support a variety of different habitats: natural cliff-top grassland and heath, sheer cliff face and cliff-fall rubble, shingle and wave-cut platform. These can be viewed in combination from the cliff top. Striking red colour of cliff contrasts with the sea.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The cliff top is open and exposed, with the sound of the wind and waves crashing on the foreshore, and seabirds nesting in the cliffs. There are extensive views west to the open sea, across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to Dumfries and Galloway and the Isle of Man, and south to St Bees Head.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
Natural coastal strip of rugged cliffs and coastal heath vegetation, with some human influences.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
Some natural erosion of the cliff face.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	

Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Fencing and warning signs to deter people from accessing the coastal edge are incongruous features, although temporary in nature.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Naturalistic coastal strip perceived as remote from transport routes and habitation, despite relative proximity to Whitehaven (and views to urban development from the cliff top).	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
Narrow coastal strip with few built structures, albeit minor urban influences in the form of signs and hard surfaces footpaths are evident. The urban edge of Whitehaven is visible from the cliff top.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Coastal cliffs partially colonised by grassland and coastal heath.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
Open and exposed, particularly at the cliff tops. Expansive views to the open sea.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
A sense of enclosure may be perceived from the foreshore at the base of the cliffs; however this area is inaccessible to the public.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
A naturalistic landscape with little sign of human intervention.	
Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	

Indicator: Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences	
Birdsong can be heard from birds nesting in the cliffs. The open sea dominates views, and can be heard crashing on the shore below the cliffs.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences	
The coastal footpath is popular with walkers, including dog walkers from nearby residential areas.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality	
Red-brown sandstone evident in the cliff faces with the SSSI geological features of note expressed throughout.	
Indicator: Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features	
Striking sandstone cliffs.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation for the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that cliff face vegetation is variable, and consists of a mosaic of maritime grassland, heath, bracken and slumped bare ground.	
Indicator: Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation for the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that Kestrels may breed on the cliffs.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality	
There are no designated heritage assets.	

Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the coastal strip as unenclosed coast. The former trackway to Saltom Pit is characterised as extraction.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Natural coastal strip with limited human influence.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Grassland management at cliff top.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
None noted.

5. Whitehaven Harbour

Evaluation framework for Whitehaven Harbour

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The area has a strong sense of place owing to its layers of historic development, marine activity and relationship with the open sea.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
The flat shoreline is backed by low cliffs and with terraced slopes beyond, modified by the mining activity at Wellington Pit. It is not as striking as the sheer sandstone cliff to the south.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The area is characterised by centuries of built development, which has a strong relationship with the coastal landform. Striking red colour of cliffs contrasts with the sea. Vegetation is limited to mown grassland which emphasises the urban grain of the area.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The area has a strong relationship with the sea. There are panoramic views northwest across the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to the Dumfries and Galloway coastline and southwest to the Isle of Man. Landmarks include the lighthouse on the harbour walls and the Candlestick. The sounds of seabirds, wind and waves can all be heard.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is man-modified, and natural elements are confined to the shoreline and containing cliffs. Visually the area is contained. Layers of human influence are represented.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
Landscape areas are typically managed grassland, and are in reasonable condition.	

Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Modern buildings are present and the urban edge of Whitehaven is dominant.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
There area does not have a sense of remoteness – it is overlooked by much of the town including houses on Harbour View. Access to the western side of the harbour is provided by West Strand. The England Coast Path will runs along the harbour wall, cutting inland at the Wellington Monument.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
There are no uninterrupted tracts of land - the harbour area has been heavily influenced by centuries of built development.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
There is little semi-natural coastal vegetation – built structures are set within areas of close mown amenity grassland or rough grassland. On the shore at South Beach there is a rich growth of seaweeds.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
Partially exposed to wind and waves, particularly at the lighthouse on the harbour walls.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
The coastline is enclosed by walls, steeply sloping grassland and terraces which form part of the restored landscape of the Wellington Pit. Steeply sloping sandstone cliffs form a small headland which contains the harbour area to the south. It does not have a sense of isolation.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
Strong indications of human intervention - the harbour area has been heavily influenced by centuries of built development. The landscape around the built structures is maintained as amenity grassland, with limited natural landscape.	

Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
Views from the harbour area are dominated by the open sea, and birdsong can be heard providing a contrast to the built up urban area of Whitehaven.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
The harbour area has been heavily influenced by centuries of built development. There are several car parks bringing occasional traffic to West Strand. The area is popular with walkers and visitors, enjoying panoramic views and historical interpretation eg from the Candlestick. The area is therefore perceived as relatively busy and not tranquil.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
Red sandstone buildings and walls contribute to sense of place.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Steep cliff face. Landform modified by past mining use.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation for the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) identifies closely mown amenity grassland around the various built structures. The rocky shoreline of South Beach supports a rich growth of seaweeds.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
None noted.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: <i>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	

Whitehaven Old Fort is a Scheduled Monument, comprising an 18 th C coastal battery overlooking Whitehaven Harbour and an associated lime kiln. Jonathan Swift House is a Listed Building. There are several other listed buildings associated with the harbour walls.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the harbour as built environment, of sub-type dock/harbour. The coastal strip is classified as unenclosed coast.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Landscape much modified by development of the harbour.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Managed grassland on the slopes around the Candlestick.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
<p>JMW Turner painted scenes of Whitehaven Harbour.</p> <p>The development of Whitehaven harbour is linked to the beginning of the Irish coal trade. In 1634 Sir Christopher Lowther built a stone jetty, now known as the Old Quay. As trade continued to expand, additional quays were built. http://www.visitcumbria.com/wc/whitehaven-harbour/ The port of Whitehaven was once the 3rd largest in the UK with trade links all over the world. http://www.golakes.co.uk/explore/western-lake-district/whitehaven.aspx</p> <p>Site of the Wellington pit disaster of 1910. The 'candlestick chimney' was the ventilation shaft for the pit.</p> <p>Jonathan Swift, the author of Gulliver's Travels, has connections with Whitehaven.</p>

6. Sandwith Farmland

Evaluation framework for Sandwith Farmland

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
<p>The area has a recognisable sense of place due to its rolling topography, land cover of mixed farmland enclosed within small-medium fields and traditional vernacular settlement and scattered dwellings. The farmland is continuous with that in the existing Heritage Coast, particularly the fields on the east side of Hannahmoor Lane which runs across a ridge. It has an open windswept character, particularly those fields in the north-west which are in proximity to the coastal edge.</p>	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
<p>The landform is gently rolling. It does not have a strong association with the coast except for a narrow strip of fields which face onto the sea between Quarry Bungalows and the hill top trig point.</p>	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
<p>Fields are medium to large in size, with some narrow strip fields east and west of Sandwith reflecting historic farming practices. Undulations in topography mean that overviews of the farmland are not frequent.</p>	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
<p>The farmland around Sandwith does not have a strong association with the sea, except along the higher land in the northwest where the sounds, smells and views of the sea can be appreciated.</p>	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
<p>The landscape is generally intact, with natural and human elements combining to create a traditional rural scene. There would be opportunities here to extend the thin strip of coastal heathland further inland.</p>	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
<p>The farmland is generally intact. Fields are separated by post and wire fencing or hedgebanks, which are</p>	

well maintained.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
There is a mast on Hannah Moor within the existing Heritage Coast boundary which has a localised presence. There are some modern style buildings in Sandwith but these are not visually intrusive.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Minor roads connect Whitehaven with Sandwith and Rottington. The coastal farmland is only accessible via a private road to the cottages at Birkhams Quarry.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
A farmed landscape of mixed arable and pastoral land, contained by stone walls, fencing or hedgebanks. Small traditional villages, the largest of which is Sandwith, and scattered farmsteads.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Predominantly farmland with some small strips of woodland eg around Sandwith. There would be an opportunity to extend coastal heathland into this area.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
Fields vary from small strip fields to large arable fields. In the west fields are open, rolling and elevated, exposing them to coastal winds.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
Farmland in proximity to Sandwith is more sheltered, being located in a small scale valley and with strips of woodland and hedgerow trees providing a sense of shelter. The area to the west is more open and exposed to the sea.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
A managed, farmed landscape.	

Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
The area is rural in nature, comprising farmland with small, traditional linear settlements such as Sandwith. Fields and lanes are lined by scrub and occasionally by hedgerow trees. The area is quiet and peaceful, occasionally punctuated by birdsong.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
Settlements tend to be small in scale and traditional, although there are some modern housing styles in and around Sandwith. The peace and quiet is occasionally interrupted by traffic noise or agricultural operations.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
Geology expressed in red sandstone buildings and walls, which contribute to sense of place.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Rolling hills, rising to a high point of 129m AOD above Barrowmouth Common, with Sandwith located at the head of a narrow valley. Not especially distinctive or memorable.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
Mixed arable and pastoral agricultural use. Limited tree cover.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
None noted.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: <i>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	

There are no known heritage assets or cultural associations.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the farmland around Sandwith as being ancient enclosures associated with discrete farms. To the east of Byerstead Road there is an area of former common arable land. The settlements are described as nucleated. There are narrow strips of plantation between Sandwith Newtown and Rottington.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Traditional farmland with small settlements in the vernacular style.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Managed farmland, both arable and pastoral. Traditional sandstone walls/hedgebanks are well maintained.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
None noted.

7. Rhodia Site

Evaluation framework for Rhodia Site

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The overall impression of the landscape is of derelict / waste ground, fenced off from public access and gradually being colonised by grassland. It does not have a strong sense of place.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
The landform is flat overall, but with local undulations resulting from now demolished buildings and areas of hardstanding. The landscape has been modified by decades of development.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The landscape has a neglected appearance, comprising some unmanaged semi-improved neutral grassland, bare ground with colonising vegetation and remaining hardstanding.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The area is open (although fenced off) but contained by rising landform to the west which shelters it from the sea.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is neglected, with a discordant mix of hardstanding and colonising grassland. Some built structures remain but these are industrial in nature.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
There are some areas of unmanaged, semi-improved neutral grassland and colonising grasses. Overall the landscape is in a poor condition.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	

Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Incongruous features include: hard-standing associated with the former industrial buildings and small ponds; unmanaged grassland; concrete aprons and roadways, dug up in places and forming vegetated rubble piles.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
High Road forms the eastern boundary of the area, with houses fronting onto the Rhodia site, and therefore it is not perceived as distant from habitation.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
The site includes areas of waste ground with large areas of hardstanding, colonising vegetation and grassland. Most of the buildings have been demolished but the area retains an industrial derelict urban fringe feel, including intrusive security fencing and lighting.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
No semi-natural habitat present.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
Large scale and open, with few buildings remaining.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
Enclosed by fencing. No woodland cover. Contained by landform of Barrowmouth to the west.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
Since the Rhodia chemical works were closed in 2005 and buildings subsequently demolished colonising vegetation and grassland have taken over large parts of the site.	

Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
It was not possible to gain access to the Rhodia site. The colonising vegetation within the site is likely to provide habitats for wildlife.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
This former industrial area is degraded, comprising areas of hardstanding, colonising vegetation and grassland. The site is surrounded by fencing, and overlooked by housing and traffic along High Road.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
None noted.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Flat landform modified by past industrial use.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that the Rhodia chemical plant contained some areas of rank grassland, with the southern end of the site also supporting fairly good quality grassland. There are opportunities for habitat restoration and enhancement here.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
None noted.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes:	
Indicator: <i>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to</i>	

distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality
There are no designated heritage assets.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the area as built environment, of sub-type manufacturing/retail, and formerly as planned enclosure.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Derelict land.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Appears unmanaged.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
In 1943 the Marchon Chemical Works was built on the site of Ladysmith pit and became a leading producer of detergent powders. Its tall chimneys dominated the Whitehaven skyline for around 50 years until closure in 2005 and demolition two years later. http://www.golakes.co.uk/explore/western-lake-district/whitehaven.aspx . The area is an important site in the history of Whitehaven and locally significant in terms of its past role as a local employer.

8. Kells Farmland

Evaluation framework for Kells Farmland

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The area has a strong sense of place derived from its gentle west facing slopes, predominantly arable land use and open, expansive views of the sea – forming the hinterland to the cliffs.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
There is a gentle gradient from east to west, towards the elevated cliffs facing onto the open sea, which remain a striking feature that can be appreciated from parts of this area.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The primary land use is arable, with some pasture in the fields to the east of the footpath and to the north. The simple land cover emphasises the openness of the landscape, and highlights its relationship with the coastal strip and open sea. The colours of the ploughed fields are harmonious with the red sandstone of the adjacent cliffs.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The farmland is open and exposed, with the sound of the wind and waves crashing on the foreshore, and seabirds nesting in the cliffs in the adjacent coastal strip. There are extensive views west to the open sea, and south to St Bees Head. Views north and east take in the Whitehaven urban fringe.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is intensively managed farmland, with some pasture and grassland on its fringes. Field boundaries are marked by post and wire fencing with relict hedgebanks, some in decline.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
The landscape is intensively managed arable farmland on the west side of the footpath, with less intensively managed pasture to the north and east of the footpath. There is some scrub vegetation on the	

fringes of the arable fields. There is an opportunity to enhance the ecological value of the area through restoration of hedgebanks and potential expansion of coastal heath vegetation.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
Within the area there are some urban fringe influences in the form of fencing and hard surfaced footpaths. There are views to modern housing in close proximity, particularly from the field which is overlooked by West Row and from the pasture on the east side of the footpath which runs along the back of the housing.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
Sense of remoteness pervades in the arable fields, particularly in proximity to the coast and on the west side of the break in slope which runs north-south through these fields. This rural character is enhanced by views west to the open sea and south to St Bees Head. However one field is overlooked by housing on West Row, and the fields east of the footpath have a more urban fringe character.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
Large fields enclosed by post and wire fencing and hard-surfaced footpaths. Urban influences are more prevalent in the east, where housing at Kells overlooks the fields.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
Predominantly arable fields to the west of the footpath, with pasture to the east. Grassland at fringes. Semi natural coastal vegetation is not extensive in this area although the open arable fields retain a rural character.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
Large scale, expansive open fields, sloping down to the west/cliffs. Exposed to winds off the sea.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
No sense of enclosure; exposed, and at times, windswept.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
An intensively managed landscape.	

Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
Despite proximity to the Whitehaven fringe the area has a rural character, and mainly comprises arable fields. Both the fields and the adjacent cliffs provide important habitats for nesting birds which can be seen and heard. Views of the open sea to the west dominate.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
One arable field is overlooked by housing, and the pasture to the east of the footpath is also overlooked by Kells. There are views back to residential development along West Row and off High Road from the area. The surfaced footpath is well used and people are evident.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
None noted.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Gently sloping down to the coastal cliffs, creating elevated landform with vast open sea views.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) identifies the area as arable fields, containing a crop of barley at the time of the survey. Ecological diversity is degraded but the area offers opportunities for enhancement.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
None noted.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: <i>Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	

There are no known heritage assets.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the fields as being of planned enclosure.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
Urban edge of Whitehaven detracts from rural character.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Managed as arable farmland which contributes to rural character of the landscape, and introduces colour, although opportunities for enhancement of ecological diversity are noted.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
The footpath access provides a well-used recreational resource.

9. Solway Road Fields

Evaluation framework for Solway Road Fields

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The character of the area is unified by its gently sloping topography, expansive open sea views and distinctive stone walls running at right angles to the sea. The area has an urban fringe feel, comprising areas of scrub and pasture, and does not have a strong sense of place.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
The topography is not distinctive or striking, having a gently gradient sloping down towards the sea from east to west.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
There are medium to large sized fields containing pasture or which have been colonised by scrub. The fields are open in nature except for some small, scattered trees in the south and a belt of mature shrub planting in the north, separating this area from the neighbouring Haig business park.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The pasture and scrubland is open and faces onto the sea to the west. At times it can feel exposed to winds from the west. There are panoramic views west to the open sea, and south to St Bees Head, with its landmark cliffs. These borrowed qualities create an element of scenic quality.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is urban fringe farmland, some of which has been colonised by scrub. Traditional stone walls running at right angles to the coast are a characteristic element. There are opportunities for ecological enhancement.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
Parts of the landscape have a neglected appearance, in particular the waste ground at the western end of	

Ravenhill Track at the former coal depot. Areas of pasture and grassland are better maintained, with mown fringes.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
The waste ground at the western end of Ravenhill Track is an incongruous feature, detracting from the overall rural appearance of the landscape. Incongruous elements include adjacent development, pony grazing and scrub encroachment.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
The area is overlooked by, and has views to, housing along Solway Road and North Row, and is partially bordered by a small scale business park and former Haig Museum complex to the north. It is not perceived as distant from habitation.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
Fields are small in scale and contained by traditional stone walls. The area is partially enclosed by residential and industrial development, and there is a small area of waste ground at the end of the Ravenhill Track. There are therefore overt industrial/urban influences.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
The area comprises some pasture, with larger areas which have been partially colonised by scrub, with scattered small windswept trees. A belt of mature shrub planting runs along the road separating this area from the Haig Museum complex and business park. Semi natural coastal vegetation is not extensive.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
The fields face west onto the sea and can feel exposed.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
Fields are small to medium sized, and contained by stone walls or scrub which provides some shelter to those using the footpaths which cross the fields.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	

Some of the fields have been colonised by scrub, with small windswept trees.	
Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
The area is rural in nature, comprising small fields grazed by horses and scrubland. Natural sounds include birdsong and the wind and waves. The open seas are dominant in views west.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
The area is overlooked by housing along Solway Road and North Row, and partially bordered by a small scale business park and Haig Museum complex to the north. At the western end of the Ravenhill Track there is a small area of derelict hardstanding which detracts from the otherwise rural land uses. The footpaths are popular with dog walkers.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
None noted.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
Relatively flat landform.	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) identifies the land to the south of the Haig Museum complex as fields. Some of these have been colonised by scrub, others are grazed. There are opportunities to enhance the ecological diversity of this area.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) identifies the presence of the meadow pipit. Other species noted on site include the grey partridge, barn owl, grasshopper warbler, slow worms, common lizards and black caps.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>

Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes
Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality
There are no known heritage assets.
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape
None noted.
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the fields as being of planned enclosure.
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time
None noted.
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty
Managed grassland.
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs
The area forms an important local recreation resource, with opportunities for enhancement.

10. Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig Pit

Evaluation framework for Haig Clifftop Fields and Haig Pit

Factor: Scenic Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Distinctive sense of place	
Indicator: <i>Landscape character lends a clear and recognisable sense of place associated with the coast</i>	
The landscape is typically gently sloping amenity grassland, which does not have a strong sense of place. The distinctive engine house and pithead gear which form part of the former Haig Museum complex are focal points in the wider landscape.	
Subfactor: Striking coastal landform	
Indicator: <i>Striking landform types/scale or coastal configurations</i>	
The landform is indistinctive and likely artificially formed when the Haig mine was restored.	
Subfactor: Visual interest in patterns of land cover	
Indicator: <i>Coastal land cover and vegetation types form an appealing pattern or composition in relation to each other and/or to landform which can be appreciated in the landscape</i>	
The land cover is flower-rich amenity grassland with some scrub and shrub planting at its fringes. The grassland is functional but otherwise uniform in appearance.	
Subfactor: Appeal to the senses	
Indicator: <i>Aesthetic/sensory qualities associated with the sea - sounds, views, smells, exposure, coastal landmarks, weather</i>	
The landscape is open and exposed to the elements, including winds blowing off the sea. The sound of the winds and nesting birds can be heard. Visual interest is created by the striking pit complex, in particular the engine house and pithead gear.	
Factor: Landscape Quality	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Intactness in the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives	
Indicator: <i>Characteristic natural and human elements well represented throughout</i>	
The landscape is largely mown grassland, which is cut annually as a hay crop to promote wildflowers. The open grassland forms an appropriate visual setting for the distinctive buildings and structures of the Haig Museum complex. The landscape is not typical of the wider coastline, as land uses are influenced by proximity to the urban fringe.	
Subfactor: The condition of landscape elements and features	
Indicator: <i>Landscape elements and features are in good condition</i>	
The landscape is well maintained as amenity grassland. There is some shrub planting associated with the	

business park. In the gully along the northern side of the area there is mature scrub.	
Subfactor: Influence of incongruous features or elements on the perceived natural beauty	
Indicator: <i>Incongruous elements are not present to a significant degree, are not visual intrusive, are only localised or temporary in nature</i>	
The car park of the former Haig visitor centre and the business park are incongruous elements, but the latter is generally well screened by enclosing shrub planting, particularly on its northern side. Fencing along the coastal cliffs and sports uses are further incongruous urban fringe influences.	
Factor: Relative wildness	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: A sense of remoteness	
Indicator: <i>Relatively few roads or other transport routes and distant from or perceived as distant from significant habitation</i>	
The area is overlooked by and has views to residential development along High Road and Basket Road on the Whitehaven urban fringe and is therefore not perceived as distant from habitation.	
Subfactor: A relative lack of human influence	
Indicator: <i>Uninterrupted tracts of land with few built features and few overt industrial or urban influences</i>	
The area is used for formal and informal recreation, containing a rugby pitch and network of paths popular with walkers and dog walkers. The Haig Museum complex is partially enclosed by a small scale business park comprising low level industrial units. There are therefore overt urban influences.	
Indicator: <i>Extensive areas of semi-natural coastal vegetation</i>	
The area comprises mown amenity grassland. There is some shrub planting around the Haig Museum complex and adjacent business park. There are no areas of extensive semi-natural coastal vegetation although the area offers opportunities for ecological enhancement to create a coastal character.	
Subfactor: A sense of openness and exposure	
Indicator: <i>Open, exposed to the elements and expansive in character</i>	
The area is open, with little tree cover, and exposed to winds blowing off the sea. The area is relatively small in scale.	
Subfactor: A sense of enclosure and isolation	
Indicator: <i>Sense of enclosure provided by (eg) woodland, coastal landform that offers a feeling of isolation</i>	
The area is open and exposed, and surrounded by the Whitehaven urban fringe. There is a narrow gully, containing scrub vegetation.	
Subfactor: A sense of the passing of time and a return to nature	
Indicator: <i>Absence or apparent absence of active human intervention</i>	
The building and pit gear at the Haig Museum complex have a strong influence on landscape character, and dominate views along this section of coast. These buildings evoke a strong sense of history, which has	

been partially eroded by later residential and industrial development.	
Factor: Relative tranquillity	
Factor met	<i>Does not meet</i>
Subfactor: Contributors to tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of natural landscape, birdsong, peace and quiet, natural-looking woodland, stars at night, stream, sea, natural sounds and similar influences</i>	
Experiential qualities include birdsong and the sound of wind blowing across this exposed area of grassland. Views to the west are dominated by the open seas, in contrast to the urban views to the east.	
Subfactor: Detractors from tranquillity	
Indicator: <i>Presence and/or perceptions of traffic noise, large numbers of people, urban development, overhead light pollution, low flying aircraft, power lines and similar influences</i>	
The fields are overlooked by, and have views to, housing along High Road and Basket Road, and urban fringe land uses such as the sports pitch reduce tranquillity overall. The area is popular with dog walkers. The former Haig Museum complex is partially enclosed by a small scale business park.	
Factor: Natural heritage features	
Factor met	<i>Partially meets</i>
Subfactor: Geological and geo-morphological features	
Indicator: <i>Visible expression of geology in distinctive sense of place and other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The brick pit buildings and more recent interventions (eg coastal path seating) are constructed in traditional red sandstone and contribute to sense of place.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of striking or memorable coastal geo-morphological features</i>	
This area was heavily shaped by coal mining between the 17th and 20th Centuries and large areas are covered by a thick layer of colliery waste (Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast, National Trust 2007).	
Subfactor: Wildlife and habitats	
Indicator: <i>Presence of wildlife and/or habitats that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that most of the flat ground surrounding the Haig Museum complex is managed as amenity grassland. Some scrub was noted bordering the museum and enterprise park. Currently wildlife habitats do not strongly contribute to sense of place. Gulley (former incline railway) colonised by heather.	
Indicator: <i>Presence of individual species that contribute to sense of place, relative wildness or tranquillity</i>	
The Draft Nature Conservation Evaluation of the Whitehaven Coast (National Trust, 2007) notes that the meadow pipit and swallow were recorded and may breed nearby.	
Factor: Cultural heritage features	

Factor met	<i>Fully meets</i>
Subfactor: Built environment, archaeology and designed landscapes	
Indicator: Presence of settlements, buildings or other structures that make a particular contribution to distinctive sense of place or other aspects of scenic quality	
Haig Colliery is a Scheduled Monument. The engine houses, power station and pithead gear are Listed Buildings. Haig pit was sunk in early 20th Century and remained as Cumbria's last deep mine until 1986 when it closed in response to the changing nature of energy sources in the UK. In 1997 the remaining mine buildings were converted into the Haig Museum complex, which is currently closed.	
Indicator: Presence of visible archaeological remains, parkland or designed landscapes that provide striking features in the landscape	
Haig Colliery is a Scheduled Monument - Visual interest is created by the striking and evocative Haig museum, in particular the engine house and pithead gear.	
Subfactor: Historic influence on the landscape	
Indicator: Visible presence of historic landscape types or specific landscape elements or features that provide evidence of time depth or historic influence on the landscape.	
Historic Landscape Characterisation identifies the colliery buildings and fields to the north as extraction, of sub-type mining.	
Indicator: Perceptions of a harmonious balance between natural and cultural elements in the landscape that stretch back over time	
Not a naturalistic landscape.	
Subfactor: Characteristic land management practices	
Indicator: Existence of characteristic land management practices, industries or crafts which contribute to natural beauty	
After its closure the colliery was restored and transformed into a coal mining museum (Haig Museum complex). The adjacent fields are managed flower-rich grassland.	
Subfactor: Associations with written descriptions, artistic representations, and associations of the landscape with people places or events	
Indicator: Availability of descriptions of the landscape in notable literature, topographical writings or guide books, or significant literature inspired by the landscape.	
Indicator: Depiction of the landscape in art, other art forms such as photography or film, through language or folklore, or in inspiring related music	
Indicator: Evidence that the landscape has associations with notable people or events, cultural traditions or beliefs	
Pit disasters at Haig in 1922 and 1928 still have resonance with local people. The pit was Cumbria's last deep coal mine and closed in 1986 and is historically emotive due to employment it once offered. The area is well used by the public for recreational access. Local artist Paul Schofield who worked at, and has painted Haig Colliery.	

Appendix 3

References

Guidance

- Natural England (2015) Heritage Coasts: definition, purpose and Natural England's role;
- Natural England (2014) An approach to Landscape Character Assessment;
- Natural England (2014) An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment;
- Natural England (un-dated, received March 2016) Draft Guidance provided to National Trust on Heritage Coast Definition and Criteria;
- Natural England (2011) Guidance for assessing landscapes for designation as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England;
- Landscape Institute and IEMA (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition;

Landscape and Seascape Character

- Natural England (2009) Countryside: North West Landscape Character Framework Final Report Part 2: Regional Landscape Character Types and Areas;
- Natural England (2014) National Character Area profile: 07 West Cumbria Coastal Plain;
- Cumbria County Council (2011) Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit;
- Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation (2009) Cumbria County Council
- Friends of the Lake District for the National Trust (2006) Landscape Character Assessment of the South Whitehaven Coast;
- LUC (2015) Draft Marine Character Assessments for the South East, North East and North West Marine Plan Areas;

National Trust documents

- National Trust area of management plan: Haig, Haig 2 and Rhodia;
- National Trust Nature Conservation Evaluation (2007): Whitehaven Coast
- National Trust (2005) preliminary nature conservation appraisal;

Planning Policy Documents

- Copeland Borough Council (2013) Copeland Local Plan. Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD;
- Copeland Borough Council (2015) Site Allocations and Policies Plan Preferred Options 2015;
- Copeland Borough Council (2012) Draft West Whitehaven SPD and associated documents;
- Copeland Borough Council (2013) Adopted South Whitehaven SPD; and
- Inspector's Report on Objections to the 1st and 2nd Deposit Versions of the Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016 (Public Inquiry, 2005).

Other

- Designation citations and information (SSSI, MCZ, GCR, SM).